



# A letter to the future

Zhang Yimou chose "Letter to the future" as the theme of Paralympics' closing ceremony. It can be seen as the theme of both Olympic games.

The curtain dropped on Beijing, but the city's letter encloses profound memories of the 40 days and hope for the years to come.

IC photos

## To athletes

"There is another word that we could put before 'inspire' and 'excite,' and that's 'surprise.'"

Page 7

## To partners

"We won the gold together. I was very depressed when I heard there was no medal for the guide runner."

Page 8

## To all

During final days, people did whatever they could to keep the memory of the Games alive and claim a fragment for themselves.

Page 9

## To Beijing

"The Paralympic movement is at its top now because of the Beijing Games. It opened up people's minds toward those with disabilities."

Page 10



## PARALYMPIC SPECIAL

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY

September 19, 2008 - September 25, 2008

NO. 381 CN11-0120

HTTP://BJTODAY.YNET.COM

CHIEF EDITOR:

JIAN RONG

NEWS EDITOR:

YU SHANSHAN

DESIGNER:

ZHAO YAN



"HAPPY HOUR" EVERYDAY! 2/4/1 - 4/2/8

GOOSE "N" DUCK SPORTS PUB & ARENA

"WE FEED THE NEED"

AT A FAIR PRICE!

CHAO YANG PARK EAST GUANHU GARDEN TOWER S1

朝阳公园桥东北角观湖国际写字楼一号首层



59283045/46/47



THE

Village INN

HOTEL & RESORT... NOW OPEN!

北京青年报  
BEIJING YOUTH DAILY

Under the auspices of the Information Office of Beijing Municipal Government ■ Run by Beijing Youth Daily ■ President: Zhang Yanping ■ Editor in Chief: Zhang Yabin ■ Executive Deputy Editor in Chief: He Pingping ■ Director: Jian Rong ■ Price: 2 yuan per issue ■ 26 yuan for 3 months ■ Address: No.25, Building A, Baijiazhuang Dongli, Chaoyang District, Beijing, China ■ Zip Code: 100026 ■ Telephone/Fax: (010) 65902525 ■ E-mail: bjtoday@ynet.com ■ Hotline for subscription: (010) 67756666 (Chinese), (010) 65902626 (English) ■ Overseas Code Number: D1545 ■ Overseas Distribution Agent: China International Book Trading Corporation





# Deadly mudslide may have begun with corruption

By Han Manman

Senior work safety officials said corruption may be behind the massive mudslide in Shanxi Province, and deliberate concealment of the true death toll may have caused a delay in rescue operations.

As of Wednesday, 260 were dead in Yunhe Village, Xiangfen County. The exact number of people missing remains unknown.

Huang Yi, spokesman for the State Administration of Work Safety, said Wednesday that a team formed by the State Council is investigating whether local officials hid the true death toll because it was different from the

number of bodies recovered at the site.

Local officials stated on September 13 that 187 people perished. Rescue workers recovered 238 bodies, Huang said.

Authorities said relatives claimed 51 bodies that were not recorded by the rescue headquarters.

However, Huang told Xinhua they may have intentionally hid the deaths to depress the body count.

Police have detained several people in the case and are continuing their probe, Huang said. Corruption is one of several angles the investigators are pursuing. "Where were the local

authorities when an (illegal) mine was operating right under their noses?" Huang asked.

The results of the investigation will be made public within two months, Huang said.

The sludge broke on September 8, burying Yunhe Village and a market as it spread across 12 hectares.

The local government announced a compensation package for victims Tuesday. Each family will be paid 200,000 yuan for each member lost. People who were disabled will receive 50,000 to 150,000 yuan, along with a monthly subsidy of 100 to 300 yuan.

As many as 300 rescuers and

30 excavators are conducting a door to door search for bodies, Lian Zhendong, the rescue operation chief, said. The search is focused on families whose members are still missing.

Initial investigation showed the construction of a pond was done in violation of regulations. The mine also lacked security checks and failed to implement government orders to regulate operations. Related safety departments were loose in their supervision.

To prevent such accidents, the State Council, the country's cabinet, ordered a nationwide safety inspection of similar sites.

## Village resurrected by domestic NGOs

By He Jianwei

Two domestic NGOs have started work on a project to build environmentally-friendly houses for 2,000 villagers in a Sichuan village hit hard by the May quakes.

Global Village of Beijing and Civilization of Ye Cao, the NGOs, are cooperating on Le He Jia-yuan, a housing project in Daping Village, Pengzhou Tongji Town, Sichuan Province. Over three phases, they will build environmentally-friendly houses for 2,000 villagers and construct a green village ecology.

"Daping Village has abundant timber reserves, so we will use local materials to build wooden houses, along with some brick, cement and steel," He Lei, Civilization of Ye Cao's spokesman, said.

In the first phase, scheduled for completion next month, the organization will build three apartments for three, four and five-person families. Each person will have 35 square meters.

All villagers will participate in the project. NGO staff will train local carpenters, who will then be assigned to family units. "The cost of this project is lower than our past efforts because of cheaper materials and labor," He said.

The NGOs' plans include the future of the village economy. "As part of our plan, we will help villagers to grow vegetables, walnuts and cherry trees," he said.

Before the quake, the primary source of income was tourism. But before the tourists and their yuan can return, Daping needs a community center. "We will build a culture center for the village - not only for the villagers' own amusement, but also to attract and entertain tourists," he said.

Most of the new homes will be built on previously-occupied sites. The villagers currently live in a series of makeshift tents.

All three phases will be completed by the end of the year, he said.

## Langzhong fight for Golden Week tourists after quake



The coming October Holiday and waves of tourists mean good business opportunity. Langzhong, Sichuan Province is promoting its traditional tourism programs to attract visitors in a Chengdu tourism exhibit.

CFP Photo

## Guangdong factory abuses exposed by migrant spy

By Jackie Zhang

When Huang Weimu left home to find work six years ago, he probably never planned to work as a spy. But the 24-year-old has used his migrant experience to expose abuses in Guangdong's factories.

Huang worked in furniture, clothing, lamp, plastic and chemical factories before starting with a clothing operation in Fanyu, Guangdong Province before this year. His mission: to collect evidence. He reported his findings earlier this month to the local labor department.

"As far as I know, the rights of migrant workers are regularly infringed upon by factories. I want to change that. I'd like to expose what goes on using the Internet and media and to warn these factories," Huang said.

This March, Huang set to work on his plan. "I have worked in

clothing factories. I know their system. Workers there work long hours everyday and without a labor contract," he said.

His job was to sit on a chair and install the fasteners on clothes. He was paid depending on how many clothes he processed, with an overtime pay of 0.5 yuan per hour. He was forced to work 11 hours a day, excluding meal time.

"Most workers can earn 800 yuan a month if they work 30 days. But according to local government rules, every worker must be paid at least 790 yuan for every 20 working days," Huang said.

During his employment, he attempted to gather evidence to prove the factory broke the law. His time card was stored as evidence of his hours, but Huang said it was a challenge to obtain. He copied it to a flash disk when he was asking for leave. He also

kept the work sheets from both himself and his colleagues, which recorded the quantity of clothes each produced.

Huang planned to collect evidence through the end of the month. However, he had to leave the factory because of irritant dermatitis at the end of August.

After he left, he submitted the materials to the local labor department and posted an article about his findings on the Internet. The factory is under investigation by the labor department, and production halted for a day while it signed contracts with its workers.

Making the factory to bankrupt was never Huang's intent, he said. "I just wanted to change the factory - to arouse migrant workers' awareness of their rights."

"I cannot change society alone, but at least I can influence the people around me," he said.

## Arrest in Chongqing ends child beggars' beatings

By Annie Wei

A peasant arrested by a Chongqing prosecution house confessed to making 80,000 yuan in a year by forcing disabled people and children to beg on the street.

Shen Chengyou, 42, from a small town in Anhui Province, got his start at pimping the disadvantaged when he recruited a middle-aged disabled man and a teenage boy to beg for him in Sichuan Province and Chongqing in 2004.

He found it an easy way to make money, and returned to his hometown to get his wife and son to aid in recruiting more children. "Children are best at playing on people's sympathies," Shen said during the investigation.

The children he recruited came from families facing tough times. "When people like that heard someone they kind of knew, like me, was making money in other cities, they kind of entrust their kids to you," Shen said.

He told one father that his son would make 4,000 yuan a year by helping him sell steamed bread on the street. Another grandpa was told his two granddaughters could make money selling roses in the big city, and he would return the two at the end of summer break. That grandpa introduced Shen to the parents of two other children in the village.

Strict policies were put in place for new recruits. Shen's son told the Chongqing police that the children were paired off in groups of two. One would carry a sign telling their "tragic story" and the other would ask passengers for money.

Each pair brought in several hundred yuan a day. They had to unless they wanted to be punished. Common punishments were denial of food, being forced to stand overnight or being needed or beat up.

One child told the police she had to get up at 5 am every day and return before 8 pm. Shen and his family kept an eye on their staff from a distance.

Children who attempted to make a phone call or buy a snack were beaten. One girl said that when she was found tossing stones with another girl, Shen beat them with a chair until it broke.

Calls to the police or attempts to run away were out of the question after Shen threatened to exact revenge on their parents. All the beggars were stored in one small room and given two meals a day to maximize profits.

Shen was caught when one of the children managed to make a phone call to his cousin to beg for help. The cousin contacted the child's family. All children were recovered and the operation was reported to the police.



# Fallout from Lehman triggers economic avalanche

By Huang Daohen

The country's stock market has felt the full force of latest financial meltdown Wall Streets, despite the central bank's latest move of cutting the lending rate.

Lehman Brothers, the largest investment bank in the US, filed last Sunday for bankruptcy. Following Lehman, a surprise takeover of its competitor Merrill Lynch and reports of American International Group's (AIG) financial crisis have only added to what's being called an economic avalanche.

On the eve of Mid-Autumn Festival, the People's Bank of China, the central bank, cut benchmark interest for a one-year loan by 0.27 percentage points, while the interest rate for deposits remains unchanged.

## Shares ended lower

(Xinhua) – Chinese shares ended 4.47 percent lower Tuesday, breaking the 2,000-point level. The benchmark Shanghai Composite Index slid to 1,816.44 at the midday break yesterday while the Shenzhen Component Index dropped 0.89 percent to 6,338.19.

The banking sector suffered heavy losses this week as profit margins of large commercial banks were squeezed by the lower lending rates. The share price of the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China, the country's biggest lender, plunged 7.89 percent again yesterday noon to 3.15 yuan.

In neighboring markets, Hong Kong's Hang Seng Index tumbled 5.44 percent to a near two-year low. Japan's Nikkei 225 average also slid 4.95 percent to a three-year low following the news of Lehman Brothers seeking bankruptcy protection.

## Limited impact

The China Merchants Bank fell sharply Wednesday after it said it sold US \$70 million worth of bonds issued by

Lehman Brothers.

"So far we haven't made any provision for the debt," the bank said in a statement Wednesday. It added that it will evaluate the risk of the holdings and disclose the details according to relevant regulations.

However, analysts said the impact of the Wall Street turmoil on the Chinese banks will be limited.

"From all the information we have at this time, we don't think the exposure is very material to their books," Ryan Tsang, the director of financial services ratings for the Greater China region at Standard & Poor's, was quoted by Dow Jones as saying.

"It is unlikely that Chinese banks will see any material pressure for their ratings to be downgraded," he added.

## Further interest cuts

The domestic interest cut may trigger market expectations into further cuts. Peng Xingyun, a researcher at the Academy of Social Sciences, believes authorities may both reduce benchmark interest and cut deposit and loan interest in turns.

It also indicates that the major focus of authority's monetary policy has shifted from curbing inflation to promoting economic growth, Peng told Xinhua.

In the years from 2001 through 2007, China experienced a round of economic expansion. "It's rarely seen in history, for economic expansion usually lasts for two or three years, and is followed by economic downturn," Peng said, adding that slowdown of China's economy in the next few years is almost inevitable.

With the US economy operating under loose monetary and fiscal policies, China may adjust its own current monetary policy to boost the domestic economy, he said.



Headquarters of Lehman Brothers

Photo provided by Beijing Youth Daily

## Bertelsmann targets outsourcing business in China

By Huang Daohen

Global media conglomerate Bertelsmann will seek opportunities in outsourcing business solutions despite closure of its book club business in China, Thomas Rabe, the firm's chief financial officer, said.

"China will remain one of its key growth markets," Rabe told a recent press conference in Beijing. The company has established a €100 million strategic investment arm in China, looking for startups in media and education, he said.

The firm expects to see a significant increase in its business in China over the next five to 10 years, he said. As a sign of its commitment, the company set up one of its three global corporate centers in Beijing this year.

In July, the German company closed its book club in China, its biggest business in the nation with 1.5 million members and 38 bookstores.

Rabe said the company's revenue in China mainly comes from Arvato, a third-party business outsourcing provider and the largest CD/DVD replicator in China, through which it partners with fashion, parenting and automobile magazines.

The method, which at first proved popular among white-collar workers and young people, lost its appeal as online bookstores began to boom.

Rabe said the company quit the sector because, compared to Europe, book prices in China are relatively low, while operating costs are higher, and that makes the book club business unprofitable in the long run.

## Shimao Group denies bid for Newcastle

By Huang Daohen

The Shanghai-based Shimao Group said Tuesday that it is not involved in a renewed bid for Newcastle United. It also ruled out interest in any other Premier League club.

According to The Daily Telegraph, Xu Rongmao, the founder and president of the Shimao Group, has been linked with a bid to take over the Newcastle club.

"We can confirm that the Shimao Group is not involved in any negotiations to buy Newcastle and is not planning a fresh bid for it," the director of the public relations department who only gave his name Qian, said.

"I was confused by the news and I have no idea where the original source comes from," Qian said. He has been asked the same question by several media since Monday.

Newcastle United's owner Mike Ashley announced he was putting the club up for a sale amid fan unrest following the resignation of the team's manager Kevin Keegan.

It was reported that Ashley dispatched members of his inner circle to sound out potential buyers.

## Voice

What will Lehman's actions mean for the world? The following are comments from financial analysts.

*There's a decoupling in the wind, the US is essentially finished as a global economic power.*

*The US dollar is now finished as the world's reserve currency and we are going to*

*see now some other country rise up and take its place, probably China.*

– Max Keiser, prediction markets analyst

*Everybody in the West, or at least a lot of people, has pensions and these pensions are invested in the stock market, and a lot of the shares are actually the shares of banks. And when bank shares get ham-*

*pered, people's pensions get hammered, so everybody loses.*

*When big banks like Lehman go under, you know the housing market is going to suffer again, house prices are going to fall in the US, Britain, Europe and so on.*

*That's going to again hit millions of ordinary people, and of course you have got thousands of job losses.*

– Allister Heath, editor of a

financial newspaper

*I think the impact is going to be quite profound.*

*I think this is a defining moment for world economies, it's a defining moment for the US, it's a defining moment for all of us that will remember this for the rest of our lives.*

– Andrew Critchlow, managing editor for Dow Jones (Aljazeera.com)

## Thai fruits target China after Olympic exposure

By Huang Daohen

The Agriculture and Cooperatives Ministry of Thailand last Saturday held a fruit promotion and tasting fair at the Kerry Center Hotel, aiming to market Thai fruits in China.

Thai fruit was selected as the official food for athletes at the Olympic Games and Paralympics. As many as 20 tons of Thai fruits, including dried longan,

durian, mango and fresh pomelo, were sent to Beijing during the Games.

The volume might not be substantial but it is hoped that this exposure will bolster Thai fruit sales in China. "Thailand and China share a similar culture and even language, and the prosperous trade relations between the two countries should be furthered," the Thai

ambassador to China Rathakit Manathat said.

"Thai fruit tastes good and sells at a cheap price. Once you try it, I'm sure you will never forget it," he added.

Thai fruit producers also have high hopes for the China market. "The China market is huge and joining the Beijing event could help us build a stronger business," Hatairat Udomsin, vice

president of a Thai vacuum-dried fruit company, said.

Udomsin said her company signed a deal with Wal-Mart to supply a variety of vacuum-dried fruit to 200 Chinese outlets.

In addition, the Thai embassy will host the Thai Culture and Food Festival at the World Trade Plaza at the end of the month, urging locals to try Thai traditional food.



# Parents scramble for answers in tainted milk scandal

By Huang Daohen

Powdered milk tainted with industrial chemicals has killed three infants and sickened 6,244. The government is scrambling to find an answer to what is wrong with the dairy industry, and parents are demanding safe alternatives. Those unanswered questions have dominated headlines throughout the week.



The tainted milk scandal has been the focus of national concerns since last week.

CFP Photo

## Parents afraid and confused

A long line of anxious parents carrying their infants stood in the courtyard of Beijing Children's Hospital Wednesday. Worried they might have unwittingly fed their infants the tainted powder, they waited for hours for medical checkups.

Huang Shangde, 31, father of a 13-month-old boy, registered the child for sonographic scans of his kidneys and urine tests. Huang's wife waited beside him, cuddling her son in her arms. The couple arrived around 5 am and had spent nearly a day at the hospital.

"My son drank about two bottles of Sanlu's powdered milk," Huang said. "He seems OK, but we want to be 100 percent sure he is healthy."

The anxious couple was one of dozens of parents or grandparents who brought babies for checkups at the hospital. The crowds gathered after China Central Television (CCTV) announced Tuesday night that 21 more companies were found producing tainted powder.

On Wednesday, Health Minister Chen Zhu told a press conference that three children died and 6,244 infants were confirmed sick after drinking powdered milk contaminated with melamine. Of those, 1,327 babies — mostly newborns — remain hospitalized.

Huang, a businessman from Wenzhou, Zhejiang Province, blamed it on corporate greed. "They are trying to make a profit off people who are not rich enough to afford imported brands," he said as he waited in the yard with other families.

His son checked out fine, but he plans to stop feeding the boy dairy-based products until the danger passes.

"It will be difficult, because he likes milk. But it is the only way," he said.

Huang said as many as 200 babies were brought for testing



Bags of Yili powdered milk were removed from shelves at a supermarket in Beijing this week.

Photo Wang Zhenglong



Parents rushed their infants for checkups in Hefei, Anhui Province.

CFP Photo



A baby is treated for kidney stones caused by Sanlu powdered milk at a hospital in Gansu Province.

CFP Photo

## Producers "boost" milk

The contaminating agent was determined to be melamine, a chemical normally used in production of plastic, glue and industrial resin, Xinhua reported.

Melamine is also used in fertilizers, but is banned from food production. In the past, it was blended into agricultural products to boost protein levels and profits.

Milk producers eager to up

their yield typically cut the milk with water. However, diluted milk has a lower concentration of nutrients. To meet protein requirements, producers spike their product with melamine, which is high in nitrogen.

Clinical tests carried out by the Health Ministry showed that infants who drink the formula for extended periods developed kidney stones and renal failure.

Initially, the contamination

was thought limited to the baby formula produced by Sanlu Group, a major dairy company. But investigators have discovered traces of melamine in batches of powdered formula produced by 21 other dairy companies, including Mengniu Dairy, the country's largest dairy producer.

Mengniu and other companies have recalled their tainted products.

"They (companies) will undergo a major restructuring in a short period of time," Li Changjiang, head of the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine, told a Wednesday news conference on live television.

Li said 5,000 inspectors have been sent out nationwide to monitor companies.

An executive meeting of the State Council, presided over by Premier Wen Jiabao, on Wednesday decided to launch national comprehensive tests of dairy products and reform the dairy industry.

As of press time, authorities arrested three milk producers and one farmer and offered free medical care to ailing children. Investigators were dispatched across the country to inspect dairy operations. Four officials in Hebei Province were fired Tuesday, including Tian Wenhua, chairwoman and general manager of Sanlu Group, Xinhua reported.

## A Web awash in anger

Public anger rose as the scandal grew. Some bloggers were doubtful of Sanlu's claimed innocence. The company not only failed to detect melamine in its milk powder, but has yet to explain why it hid the problem until September 11 despite complaints from parents dated as early as March.

The story broke only after Fonterra, Sanlu's New Zealand partner, informed Chinese government officials of the problem.

Netizens were quick to attribute it to the company's irresponsibility. "Nowadays, private profit trumps public good," Son of Yangzhou, a tianya.com blogger, wrote.

"The more fundamental challenge [we] face is that companies lack basic business ethics."

"You cannot depend on the government to police the whole food chain," another blogger wrote. "More efforts must be made to educate them about social norms. They have to recognize that integrity does matter."

Experts, however, see a silver lining in the scandal.

Ren Fazheng, a professor at China Agriculture University, said: "China is still experiencing the problems of the transitional economy. One positive result is that people will become more aware of food safety."

"Both government and the people will pay more attention to this issue and more inspection agencies will use more methods, so the level of inspection will improve," Ren added.

## What should moms do?

Outside Children's Hospital, several parents pored over a newspaper report listing affected dairy brands and debated what to do.

When one woman suggested a switch to fresh milk, another woman asked, "How do we know the milk itself is not tainted?"

While moms in the north are at a loss for what to do, thousands of mothers in the south have flocked to Hong Kong to buy imported milk powder, the *South China Morning Post* reported.

The paper quoted Lau Oi-kuok, chairman of the Hong Kong General Chamber of Pharmacy, said mothers coming from the mainland were limited to three cans at each pharmacy to ensure supplies for Hong Kong mothers.

As the scandal spreads, cities are experiencing a panic buy of imported powdered milk.

Huang, the Wenzhou businessman, said though his infant son was declared healthy, he remained worried about hidden risks in the powder. "We hope a responsible institution will tell the public which brands are safe," he said.



# Brits bring street culture to the Games

By Zhang Dongya

The double-decker bus with groups of dancers appeared again at London's eight-minute presentation in the Paralympics closing ceremony Wednesday evening. Simons Smith, one of the hip-hop dancers for London-based street dance crew Zoo Nation, not only got an opportunity to show his stuff at both the Olympics and Paralympics, but also brought British street culture to the local festival.

Smith, 20, born in London, has been in the hip-hop dance field for four years, and now works as a professional dancer. Once he did a stint with the Flawless Entertainment Company as director and dancer. When the Zoo Nation's director and founder Kate Prince came to watch the performance, he was picked up by the dance company to participate in the Olympics show. "It was amazing when I learned that I could perform for the Olympics," Smith said.

After he left London on August 10, Smith began to rehearse and prepare for the performance in Beijing. In the Olympics closing ceremony, he acted as one of the British citizens waiting for the bus with newspaper and umbrella in hand.

The British participants in the event are all from well-respected organizations including the Royal Ballet and Zoo Nation. "There were more than 30 dancers in the group, hip-hop dancers, ballet dancers and contemporary dancers," Smith said. Though hip-hop dance comes from the street, it was interesting to see it sharing the spotlight with ballet dancers.

"In the UK, hip-hop was not seen that much as it is mostly indigenous to the US, but now in London, it's getting more exposure. The government and other people in London go to watch the hip-hop shows put on by Zoo Nation and there is also the

Breakin' Convention, a big hip-hop festival in the country," he said. "The hip-hop culture consists of lots of things like popping, locking, rapping and DJs. It is not only the dance though, it has also created its own fashion in clothing. The Breakin' Convention is also international and attracted performers from Korea, Germany and other countries to come to London and showcase their skills."

Zoo Nation, the most popular British hip-hop crew, became famous for its successful show titled "Into the Hoods." In the Paralympics closing ceremony, Smith wearing a hood represented the unruly spirit of Britain's "hoodie" culture in the modern-day UK.

"A lot of people have a negative attitude towards hip-hop and think it is bad with connections to guns, crime, drug dealing, shoplifting or a low socio-economic class. Now it has become the fashion, espe-

cially the hoodie dancing which puts a positive spin on hoodies," Smith said. "As a big city with so many cultures like White, Black, Asian and Indian, London cannot be selfish, but be tolerant and inclusive."

A spokeswoman from the London Olympic Committee seems to agree with Smith, saying that the ceremony would reflect "the best of modern day London's creativity, diversity and youth."

During the time between the Olympics and the Paralympics ceremonies, Smith was invited to give performances at the hip-hop festival in Beijing last weekend and taught hip-hop courses in Xidan.

In addition, he met Lucky, the designer and planner of that hip-hop festival, who helped him find good dancers. "I will be back to Beijing to work on a piece with Chinese dancers," Smith said, "and it will be very soon."



Simons Smith Photo by Zhang Rui

## Prometheus Bound for success on stage

By Han Manman

No event can beat the Cultural Year of Greece in China for its intensity and professionalism in presenting ancient Greek theater to the Chinese. The one year event, which started last September, lowered the curtain last evening at the Beijing National Grand Theater with the Greek classical drama *Prometheus Bound*.

*Prometheus Bound*, first staged in 465 BC, was written by Aeschylus, the father of Greek tragedy. The Beijing performance is a new adaptation directed by Sotiris Hatzakis and performed by the National Theatre of Greece.

At Wednesday's rehearsal, leading actor Nikos Arvanitis, 45, who plays Prometheus, said it is his first time in the role of Prometheus and also his last.

He said Greek dramatic actors never like to perform only one role throughout their life. "In Greece, if an actor performs many different roles, he or she wins respect and is viewed as very successful," Arvanitis said. "There is no actor who can perform only one certain role during his professional career like Chinese actors do."

"After Thursday's performance in Beijing, I will say goodbye to Prometheus," Arvanitis said. He will act in a movie later which will be entered into many international movie com-

petitions.

Lydia Photopoulou, the main actress and one of the most popular actresses in Greece, said there are two themes that mark the version to be staged by the Greek National Theater - sinking and anguish.

She said there are many versions of "Prometheus Bound" and their take discusses the relationship between God and the modern world. "Will Prometheus inspire the audience? In fact, God is ready to give, but humans are not ready to receive," Photopoulou said, adding that although fire ultimately fuels the modern world and technology development, it also presents problems like wars and global warming.

"China likes the word 'harmony', Greek drama also likes it. This drama shows tortuous human world development and marks that the world will eventually find peace," Photopoulou said.

*Prometheus Bound* is part of a trilogy that includes *Prometheus Unbound* and *Prometheus the Fire-Bringer*, which was first presented in 465 BC. *Prometheus Bound* is the only one whose full text still survives and is also one of the most popular works of Aeschylus. Numerous poets, writers, directors and people of the arts have been inspired by it.



Nikos Arvanitis and Lydia Photopoulou  
Photo provided by Greek Embassy



**BEIJING REVIEW**

面向全球的  
英文新闻周刊

助你走向世界的  
宽广舞台

**《北京周报》全年52期，  
优惠订阅 208 元**

**订阅方式：**

邮局汇款：  
北京西城区百万庄大街24号  
北京日报社发行部  
邮编：100037

网上订阅：  
登陆：www.bjreview.com.cn  
点击进入“在线订阅”

邮局订阅：  
邮发代号：2-922

订阅购买热线：010-68310644  
传真：010-68328738  
电子邮箱：circulation@bjreview.com.cn







# Cheeky Monkey Theater opens its new hutong office

By Gan Tian

The Cheeky Monkey Theater opened its new offices at Lumicang Hutong with a blast last Saturday. More than 50 of its staff, friends and supporters went out to join the housewarming party for beer, wine and mooncakes.

The new office is in a courtyard with green trees and grey bricks. Elyse Ribbons, the president of the theater, had difficulty finding the place. She first had the idea to hunt for a new office a few months ago. Ribbons immediately threw herself on to the Web, searching for the best places in Beijing. She made up her mind to rent the courtyard as soon as she saw it. "It was really a quiet place, which gave me the inspiration to produce a play," she said.

The 27-year-old American playwright was aware that the renting of a courtyard is expensive, but she said, a good environment for writing scripts and rehearsals is important. "So I must work harder in the future," she said. The courtyard-styled

office will provide a place for the theater to do workshops, produce scripts, carry out rehearsals, small experimental plays and friends' gatherings. "We will still produce the major productions in larger theaters," Ribbons said.

The Cheeky Monkey Theater, known as the expats' Chinglish theater based in Beijing, performed *Lethal English* at Mao Livehouse in April, choreographed for China Doll 3.3's opening party in June, and performed *Cheeky Monkey Sketches*, a comedy night in Sanlitun in July. The theater also participated in events for the Olympics, with Ribbons modeling for Beach Volleyball in the Games. In November, the theater will also produce an experimental piece involving modern dance, contemporary music and comedy.

Cheeky Monkey produces a variety of shows at least five to six times per year, but only two plays a year. Unlike other international groups in town, it creates original material. In choosing scripts, Ribbons has her own tastes and principles. In last year's ShiFen Chinglish Festival, all scripts were required to be performed in less than 10 minutes, which was a challenge for many playwrights. "We just want the scripts to be good, funny, amusing and interesting," Ribbons said, "Playing with language is the main reason I'm a playwright."



Cheeky Monkey's new office at Lumicang Hutong

Photo provided by Cheeky Monkey

The theater finds people through auditions. In the audition, they are asked to show their ability in performing. "Many people come in and tell me they speak good English but actually they don't," Ribbons said, "It does not matter whether a person has ever acted in a play before but they must realize that being an actor is not an easy task." For her, acting is a "technique" that can be learned rather than a natural "talent."

The theater finds people

## Beijing Playhouse holds auditions

By Gan Tian

Beijing Playhouse and English Broadway Theater will hold auditions for their production *A Christmas Carol* at 2 pm Sunday and at 7:30 pm next Monday.

A cast of 25 actors and singers is needed for the holiday classic. The show is being staged at the West Gate of Chaoyang Park in the entertainment space at Block 8 from Wednesday to Saturday night with Sunday matinees from December 5 to 28.

Auditions and rehearsals are at the Beijing BISS International School, two kilometers north of the Gulou subway station. All roles are open. The ability to perform in English is required, but English as a native language is not. Auditions are open and anyone can come. Interested actors and singers must complete the Actor or Singer Audition Form in advance. Beijing Playhouse is currently searching for one boy, aged 4-7, one man, aged 60-90, eight boys and girls, aged 4-17, 12 men, aged 18-60, 10 women, aged 18-60 and eight singers of all ages.

Monologues are encouraged but not necessary. Actors are asked to do a live read from the script performing scenes from the show. However, if you want to sing, you can bring a song. There will be callbacks, if necessary, next Tuesday at 7:30 pm.

Email: [performance@beijingplayhouse.com](mailto:performance@beijingplayhouse.com) for directions and details.

## Cyclists on the rise in the city

By Annie Wei

Although it's hard to estimate how often people ride bicycles to commute in the city, there has been a noticeable scene in people cycling to work, especially expats.

A couple of bike repair shops in the Sanlitun agree. "The number of riders is a lot higher than last year. Over 70 percent of our customers are from the expat community living in this area," one service man said.

For the Chinese community, the number of riders increased due to the odd-number traffic plates scheme that forced many com-

muters out of their cars.

Zhang Hao, 30, working for a real estate developer, said he moved closer to his office and got himself a bike. "The cost of keeping a car is more and more expensive, including the gas hikes, taxes, parking fees and maintenance."

"It's true that more people are riding bikes," Adam Lyons, 27, from the US, said.

There are a couple reasons he and his friends do it. Cycling is one of the best sports in the world, the weather is good for it here and the traffic is light, he said.

Li Xuefang, business manager

of the Beijing Yong Feng Jie Mei Bike Store, close to Yashou Market, said sales increased a lot this summer. "Middle-ranged prices have the best sales, especially bikes from 300 to 500 yuan," Li said.

Yoyo Duan, 28, from the US, said she found riding bicycle much more convenient. She did not start riding a bike until she saw many of her friends doing it. "It's become trendy now. More people are riding bikes because they see their friends cycling."

Normally she just rides her bike around where she lives in Wudaokou. But a lot of her friends live in the east part of Beijing,

ranging from Dongcheng district to the Sanlitun area. To ride from Wudaokou to the Workers' Stadium area is too far. She found perfect solution - the subway station's free bike rental service.

Last time, she exited Gulou subway station and rented a bike to ride to Houhai.

However, Duan is concerned whether or not she can keep riding after the odd-even rule ends on Saturday.

"People can still enjoy riding when the weather gets colder," Duan said, "But dangerous traffic and bad weather can make it unpleasant."

# BEIJING TODAY

serving **An English weekly** the **expat community**

**Expat News**  
Stories of the city's expats

**Commerce & Consulates**  
Promoting unity between all peoples

**Community**  
Building a harmonious international society

**News U can use**  
Helping each other, progressing together

# BEIJING TODAY

今日北京

Published every Friday, 24 pages  
selling at China Post Newsstands  
2 Yuan per copy and 104 Yuan for one year subscription  
Sending your info(name, delivery address, post code, Tel) by email to get 2 weeks Beijing Today for free  
Tel: 010-65902526, 65902626 Email: [btsubscription@ynet.com](mailto:btsubscription@ynet.com)

**88 YUAN!**  
subscribe before Dec 31



# Paralympics defined by surprise victories

By Huang Daohen

"There is another word that we could put before 'inspire' and 'excite,' and that's 'surprise,'" International Paralympic Committee President Philip Craven said at Wednesday's closing ceremony.

Indeed, the common scene of clashes and congestion at competitions aside, there were surprises in store during the 12-day Paralympics. The blind soccer team gave soccer fans new hope, and disabled tennis players gave a performance second to none.

## Soccer fans find a worthy national team

By Wang Yu

Brazil came from behind to take down China and claim the gold in five-a-side soccer at the Paralympics on Wednesday.

China's Wang Yafeng made the first goal at 23 minutes into the game and led the match into the second half.

Five minutes after the break, Brazilian Ricardo Alves tied up the score with a remarkable free kick. The defending champion secured its victory when Marcos Felipe's penalty became the turning point at the last minute.

"We are a bit down, but it was just our first showing at the Paralympics. I'm still proud of our accomplishments," scorer

Wang Yafeng told Xinhua after his match.

The abysmal performance of the men's national soccer team kept it out of both the 2008 Olympics and the World Cup, plummeting its already limited popularity to a new low.

Its perennially poor performance has long made the national team the butt of jokes and the shame of sports fans. Things went from bad to worse when Xie Yalong, former chairman of the Chinese Football Association, took charge four years ago. After the national team failed to qualify for the Olympics, fans called for Xie's termination.

When Nan Yong, vice chairman of the CFA, broke an Olympic sex scandal, it seemed

that the image of sport had hit rock bottom. It took a team of blind footballers trouncing Britain 3-0 to revive its sullied image.

Sohu, a top Web portal, prepared a special on the blind team that proclaimed it the "real national [soccer] team," and CCTV focused on the five-a-side with play by play results.

"We just tried our best. Don't compare us with the national soccer team, because there's no comparison," one of the players said.

To the fans, it seems that the Paralympic team did not only bring the unfamiliar feeling of victory, but the spirit of true footballers. "They are the only footballers left who deserve our respect," one netizen posted on his blog.

## Wheelchair tennis stars glitter at Games

By Wang Yu

Nick Taylor, a wheelchair tennis player from the US, has an inborn arthrogryposis (AMC), a rare congenital disorder that causes multiple joint contractures characterized by muscle weakness and fibrosis. The disease caused Taylor's arms and legs to atrophy and prevented the development of certain muscles.

To play tennis, Taylor straps the racquet to his left wrist and he returns the ball with torque rather than strength, which lends his shots a fierce top spin. Other players who are disabled with three limbs can control the movement of their wheelchairs with one hand. Taylor, however, uses a motorized wheelchair.

The tennis player is nicknamed the "Maradona on the wheelchair" for his unique motion of serving. He lifts the ball into the air with a quick kick of his foot and drives it with a underhand serve into the rival's service area.

"No one really taught me how to serve, I came up with it on my own. It was just a matter of necessity," Taylor told *China Daily*.

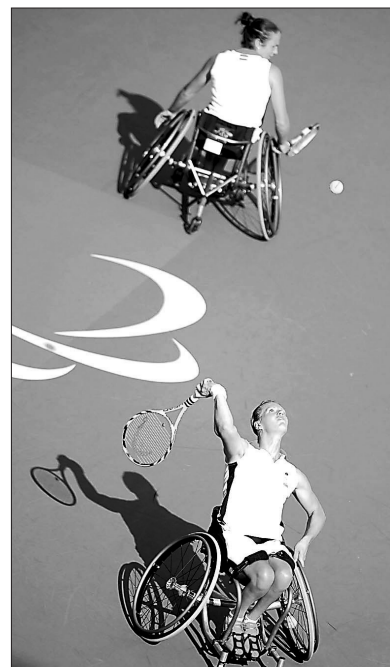
Taylor lost the bronze medal to team-

mate David Wagner on September 13, but as partners, they defended their championship later that night defeating Israel in three sets. The US pair won the first set 6-0, but wasted four championship points and lost the second set.

Wheelchair tennis began in 1976 in the US, and the International Wheelchair Tennis Federation was integrated into ITF in 1988. The players at the Paralympic tennis event are selected according to their world rankings and they vie for ranking points as a part of the year's tour. There is also Grand Slam of wheelchair tennis, which features superstars like Esther Vergeer of the Netherlands.

"The female Federer," as the Dutch athlete is known, has a record of 350 consecutive wins in international singles matches, including the final game of the women's singles, since her last loss in January 2003. She led the year-end ranking for eight years.

Though Vergeer lost the women's doubles final with her partner Jiske Griffioen, she still rules in singles. It was a hard won victory for Vergeer as she defeated world No 2 Korie Homan 6-2, 4-6, 7-6(5), ending after two hours in sudden death.



Though defeated, Esther Vergeer won fame in Beijing.

## Wheelchair users take on 'murderball'

By Jin Zhu

Wheelchair rugby came to Beijing this September as an event in the Paralympic Games. Before that, only a few people had seen the game and understood why the sport was jokingly referred to as murderball.

### Third-time champion

The US regained the gold in wheelchair rugby upsetting Australia 53-44 at the Beijing University of Science and Technology Gymnasium on Tuesday. It was the third time the US had won a gold since wheelchair rugby was introduced at the Atlanta Paralympics in 1996.

The close contest kept the score level pegged 20-20 even near the end of the second quarter. The real turning point came when the US stepped up its full-court defense in the third quarter. Will Groulx scored 11 of his 16 goals and established a five-point lead for the US. At the end of the game, the margin

extended to nine goals.

As the bronze medalist in Athens, the US team expressed excitement in an interview after the final. "We set this goal four years ago and promised each other we were going to make it. It is great to see how all the hard work and determination became a gold medal," Croulx said.

### Aggressive attacks and clashes

As an often brutal sport, the allure of wheelchair rugby is the violent clashes and high speed riding during the competition.

In the Beijing Paralympics, aggressive attacks and clashes happened frequently from the first match between the US and China last Friday. Although newcomer China was trounced 65-30, the team had left a deep impression to the world.

"I never expected the game would attract so much attention. I regretted our lack of live coverage," a BBC reporter said

after the game.

The athletes' spirit garnered praise, even from their opponents. "That is what we want, no matter what their skill level is," Brian Kirkland, captain of the US team, told Xinhua after the game. "The charm of wheelchair rugby is to show off the fighting spirit of disabled athletes."

### Wheelchair roses in blossom

There were three female athletes in Paralympic wheelchair rugby: Canadian Erika Schmutz, Briton Josie Pearson and Chinese Zhang Wenli.

Wheelchair rugby, a traditionally male domain, was shaken by the presence of three women.

"My skill is not mature enough to compete with the Canadians," Zhang said after her four-minute debut at the Beijing Paralympics last Saturday, "But I am eager to get on the field."



The "national team" brought soccer fans a big surprise at the Paralympics.

Xinhua Photos



# The champions behind the champions

By Huang Daohen

Behind every successful man, there is always a woman. Behind many of the visually impaired Paralympic champions, there is a partner or a dog.

After the winner is showered in flowers and honored at the podium, the other member of the team fades into obscurity. But these winners hope their friends can make their mark on history as well.



Li and Wu sharing the gold medal when Wu won the T11 women's dash event.

Xinhua Photo

## Student guide graced with gold

By Venus Lee

Li Jiayu, 23, a sound sprinter and sunny junior at Shenyang Sport University was recruited by the Disabled Person's Federation to guide Wu Chunmiao, the runner who won the T11 women's dash event in 12.31 seconds at the Bird's Nest.

On the Podium of T11 women's 100m dash at Bird's Nest, medalist Wu Chunmiao hung her gold medal around Li's neck. "We won the gold together. I was very depressed when I heard there was no medal for the guide runner. He had a huge hand in my victory, so I gave the gold to him."

At the press conference after the game, Wu Chunmiao said she had not planned the move in advance. "The gold medal belongs to both of us," she said. Li said he was moved by Wu's act. "At that moment, the national flag and anthem seemed like they were also for me!"

### The blind runner's eyes

Wu was connected to Li by a thin string as the two sprinted toward the finish line.

Although Wu is unable to perceive light, Li was her bright eyes at the end of the string. After two years of training together, Li and Wu function as one on the field.

In competition, their hands are bound firmly by the string. Their pace is perfect. Even after crossing the finish line they remained hand in hand, slowing down with the same steps. They spoke as one when answering reporters' questions. When asked about what difficulties they faced when they began to run as a team, the pair answered in one voice: "coordination and rapport."

The conflict between them? Their unified voice responded again with, "Communication!"

### Patience, responsibility and persistence

When asked how he and Wu could cooperate so well, Li said: "The key is patience. Although we may have disagreements about technique, as long as we communicate patiently, we will achieve mutual understanding and resolve everything."

The experience taught Li a new level of responsibility. In the 100m, he guided Wu to run in her own lane and not go off the track. He told her when to accelerate and when to sprint. In the 200m, he told her when to turn and when she was past the bend. He told her how much time was left and where she placed. "He is a very caring

and responsible person," Wu said.

Li changed his running to match the athlete's steps and pace. To enhance their mutual trust and coordination in daily life, their hands were bound together when they walked, trained and ate dinner. "The biggest challenge was improving our record," he said. "Our rivals are great, so we have to train hard. The last two years taught me a lot — our training was harder than anyone can imagine." But Li never thought of quitting. "I take things as they come. I think anyone who participates in this cause would do the same."

### Teaching his spirit

Several journalists asked Li about his plans after he fades from the limelight.

"It's OK. Everyone will forget about me, but it's nice that you reporters are making an effort," he said.

"Although I can't see his face, Li is the most handsome man in my heart; although he didn't win any medals, he will stay a champion in my heart," Wu said.

When talking about his plans for after the Paralympic Games, Liu said he would go back to school, graduate and look for a job as a physical education teacher.

## 'Daughter' led blind sprinter to glory

By Zhang Dongya

This year was Portuguese sprinter Carlos Lopes' fifth and final appearance at the Paralympic Games.

As a visually-impaired sprinter, the achievement lies in the strength of his will and with his coach. But an often overlooked source of strength was his "daughter," a guide dog named Gucci.

Eight-year-old Gucci is a black Labrador, a breed known for its excellence in guidance. In Portugal, blind people can apply to the government to receive a guide dog. When Lopes brought Gucci home from a training center six years ago, she was a two-year-old puppy.

Since then, she has been his eyes.

Lopes said Gucci was like a child when she first came home, curious about everything around her. Rather than punish her when she pounced on his couch, Lopes took to Gucci like his own child.

When a guide dog is sent to a new host, there is always a period of adaptation vital to both the dog and its host.

"It is necessary to keep a close relationship with the dog, and it is similar to how one treats a child. The very first time, you must let her know what she can and cannot do. Gucci is a clever dog, and she learned fast," Lopes said in an interview with China Radio International (CRI) Online. It was not long before Gucci started her real job.

One of the most impressive and touching moments for Lopes was when Gucci saved his life. Five years ago, Lopes visited his parents and brothers by train with Gucci. When the train arrived, the conductor accidentally opened the doors on both sides: one side faced the platform, the other faced another train. The conductor directed Lopes in the wrong direction. When he was about to disembark with Gucci, the dog refused to move. Lopes shouted at her angrily, "Why won't you move?" Gucci refused to budge.

"After that, I heard another train roar past and I knew Gucci had saved my life. I was so lucky that she knew I was wrong and refused to budge. Without her, I would not be alive today," Lopes said.

Now, the two have a tacit understanding. When Lopes visits his favorite spots, like the cafe and garden, Gucci leads him without any instruction. And Lopes also knows her well. "I can read her mind by her behavior. When she is sad, she lies on the ground and makes a sign," Lopes said.

Generally, a guide dog can work for six to 10 years. Gucci turns nine this December. But Lopes will not let her go when it is time to "retire." "I will keep her beside me, because she's my daughter," he said.



Lopes and his "daughter"

Photo provided by Hugo's Photoblog





New friends offering hugs.  
Xinhua Photo

Paralympian standing  
in a sea of red leaves.

CFP Photo

# Looking back one last time



Even the statues earned affection.

By Zhang Dongya

With the Paralympic Games over this week, people from 147 nations and regions said farewell to the past 12 days of excitement. During these last days, athletes cut down basketball nets and exchanged running shoes to keep the memory alive and take a piece of it. Visiting athletes held up signs reading "Thank you, China" at the closing ceremony.



Paralympics produced many smiles.



Farewell photos forever.



Some athletes made a  
big splash.

Photo by Li Han



Visitors say "Thank you, China!"

Photo by Hu Jinxi



Sports equipment replaced by roses.

Photos by Jing Jin



# Paralympics legacy will live on

By Milo Lee

The Paralympics finally came to an end on Wednesday. Athletes with disabilities from around the globe competed in Beijing and enjoyed themselves at the Games.

Now the exciting frame of the Paralympics has faded, but the impact of this event will continue to affect Beijing and China for a long time.

Philip Craven, head of the International Paralympic Committee, called the Games a "milestone" in the history of the Paralympics.

People began to pay more attention to the disabled and the disabled became more confident than before. Barrier-free facilities are now in place in Beijing and other cities and people with disabilities are taking part in society greater. This Paralympics has changed people's way of thinking.

For the disabled who used to feel inferior and alone, this event was a wake up. They know they can be part of society and achieve something great. The athletes of the Paralympics showed the world what they could do when they made up their minds to do it.

Wang Feng, 27, a volunteer at the Olympic Park, is a polio patient. "The Paralympics provided a stage for the disabled to confront their shortcomings and open up. The Games have surpassed the Olympic spirit. Its real influence was to make the whole society realize the rights and abilities of the disabled," he said.

In the atmosphere of the Paralympics, not only did the infrastructure for disabled people improve, but the soft infrastructure in people's hearts also changed.

For able-bodied people, the Paralympics inspired them on many levels.

"Everything in the Paralympic Games moved me, my colleagues and I shared the same feelings. The deformity of body cannot make [the disabled] lose the desire to strive. I want to thank them for the exciting competitions and more importantly, I want to thank them for their spirit, they showed me so much about the strength of moving forward in one's life," some one left a message on Sohu Olympic forum.

If the Olympics left behind the beauty and strength of human life, the Paralympics showed its tenacity. The power to deal with difficulties does not come from the completeness of one's body, but from the mind and spirit.

The Beijing Paralympics offered an opportunity to improve both the living conditions and self-respect of the disabled.



Millions of audience are moved by the spirit of Paralympics along with volunteers and athletes.

CFP Photo

## Forty history-making days

When the flame of the 2008 Paralympic Games was extinguished Wednesday night, it not only brought down the curtain on the 12-day sports gala for the world's elite athletes with disabilities, but also signified the formal ending of an "Olympic season."

It is beyond doubt that this spectacular and glorious season, lasting exactly 40 days since the opening of the Beijing Olympic Games on August 8, will live on in memory.

Hundreds of new records, unprecedented participation and media attention, the feats of Usain Bolt, Michael Phelps and Oscar Pistorius made history. But there were more historic breakthroughs achieved outside the venues.

For the first time in its 48-year history, the Paralympics saw an Olympic host pledge "Two Games with Equal Splendor" and go all out for "transcendence, integration and equality" for the disabled.

The Games made people think differently. Having bid for the Games to fulfill a century-old dream, they toiled for seven years and looked over every detail to ensure a complete success. But when the event ended, they found it was not the outcome, but the process that brought the most pride and confidence.

And the Games refreshed China's image and role in the world. It "took the center stage by storm" with the hosting of the Games. The presence of 200 foreign leaders and dignitaries at the Games' opening and closing ceremonies testified to that perception.

The Games also helped the world better understand China and its people. Such understandings arose from the hospitality and dedication of the 17 million Beijing residents and 1.7 million



Two runners from different countries hug after competition.

CFP Photo

volunteers, from Beijing's earnest fulfillment of its commitment and from eye-catching changes including free news coverage for foreign media and demonstration zones in Beijing parks.

While generating passion and glory and lighting up dreams and hopes, the past 40 days also witnessed war and conflicts, and violence and bloodshed in some parts of the world. But it was this upsetting reality that made the Games' theme all the more appealing and its legacy even more powerful.

It might be too early to gauge the impact of the 2008 Games, which many believe will influence China and the rest of the world for many years to come. But there is one thing for certain — those who took part in or bore witness to these Games, in whatever way, will be able to proclaim with pride, "I have seen history in the making."

(Xinhua)

## Global voices

### Minds open toward disabled people

Beijing gave the Paralympics new spirit. I think the Paralympic movement is at its peak now because of the Beijing Games. The Beijing Paralympics set a model for everyone in Asia. The Games make my work easier as the president of the APC, the sports standard has risen, not only because of the athletes' good performances and new world records, but the Beijing Games opened people's minds toward people with disabilities.

— Datoé Zainal Abu Zarin, president of the Asian Paralympic Committee

### A role model

The Beijing Games can be called a "role model" with its precise organization, orderly process and hospitable spectators during the Games, which enormously inspired the athletes' morale.

Beijing has in a very short time cleared all obstacles for the handicapped people in many tourist spots, a move that shows the country's love and care for the disabled.

The tremendous efforts by the Chinese people toward the Paralympics were very moving.

— Miguel Carballeda, president of Spanish Paralympic Committee

### Beijing inspires the world

The Paralympics have been inspiring. As always the Paralympians themselves have been amazing. But also the warmth and enthusiasm of their reception by the public in Beijing was amazing, the high and respectful degree of organization on the part of the Games' coordinators and the new sense of self-respect among the disabled in China that these Games seem to have inspired, as well as a new attitude in general from the government and Chinese society as a whole.

— New York Times

### Happy holiday for the disabled

With the same magnificent show of fireworks, Beijing swiftly turned into a Paralympic town in early September from an Olympic town in August.

The event will be of historical significance as it has impressed the world with outstanding organizational work, good service by tens of thousands of volunteers and spectacular performances of Chinese traditional music and dance.

The Beijing Paralympics offered a happy holiday for the disabled athletes from the whole world.

— Italian sports TV Rai Sport

### Two games of equal splendor

Comparing the Olympic and Paralympic Games, China promised to offer "two games of equal splendor." For International Paralympic Committee President Philip Craven, the goal was reached.

The Paralympic Games were marked by flawless organization and a high degree of involvement by the Chinese public.

China's efforts paid off when athletes displayed banners reading "Hello, Beijing" or "Thank you, China."

— Belgian News Agency (Agencies)



# CAPITVAL



时尚中网

娱乐中网

健康中网

文化网

**主题音乐会**  
知名艺人献唱，万人动感狂欢  
9月20日 17:40-18:40 胡海泉、宇桐非、肖飞、郑凡  
9月21日 17:40-18:40 常宽、关哲  
9月27日 17:40-18:40 凡人组合  
9月28日 17:40-18:40 吉杰、艾梦萌、王铮亮、张远、刘洲成、李茂、马雪阳、金恩圣

**亚姐秀场**  
佳丽闪耀中网，展示真我风采  
**KAPPA 拉拉秀**  
拉拉舞动球网，释放青春激情

**玩在中网之网球游戏**  
尽享游戏乐趣，体验别样网球  
**乐在中网之网球电玩**  
超酷虚拟网球，胜似真实对战  
**吃在中网之啤酒美食**  
饕餮美食大道，豪饮冰爽啤酒

**名师网球训练营**  
专业网球教练，提升实战能力  
时间：9月20日、21日、27日、28日 15:00-17:00  
**ITN (International Tennis Number) 网球测评**  
国际网联标准，权威等级测评

**“中网 网动中国” 网球争霸战总决赛**  
十大城市高手，决战皇城脚下  
比赛时间：9月26日、27日  
比赛地点：北京网球中心

**网球收藏品展**  
稀世网球珍品，品味历史文化  
**中网文化长廊及图片展**  
五年精彩瞬间，记录成长历程

中网官方指定平面设计：北京理想设计艺术公司

中国网球公开赛首席赞助商

Mercedes-Benz

北京奔驰 E级、C级轿车

中国网球公开赛白金赞助商

官方票务热线  
**400 707 9999**

中国网球公开赛  
独家票务总代理

官方票务网站

[www.ticketmaster.cn](http://www.ticketmaster.cn)

ticketmaster  
特玛票务

**2008中国网球公开赛**  
9月20日至28日 北京网球中心

中网官方网站合作伙伴

sina

中网官方网站

[www.chinaopen.com.cn](http://www.chinaopen.com.cn)

CCTV5  
中视体育

Panasonic

TSINGTAO  
青岛啤酒

Mercedes-Benz

Sony Ericsson

Kappa

Canon

中信银行  
CHINA CITIC BANK

ROLEX



For many who will arrive over the next few months, they may be curious to explore and collect memorabilia. From this week through the end of September, *Beijing Today* will present a series of guides. The guides include current popular sites for food and shopping, and will lead visitors to sites of interest too new for the guidebooks. We hope you can feel the pulse of the city and dig deep into Beijing's daily life.

## Stage Concert

### Bravo to China Concert

Who: Qin Yunyi, Yin Cunmo, Huang Nansong and Shen Jingtao  
Where: National Grand Theater Concert Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People  
When: September 20-21, 7:30 pm

Admission: 60-480 yuan  
Tel: 6655 0000

### Zagreb Music Academy Percussion Ensemble

Who: directed by Igor Lesnik  
Where: Beijing Concert Hall, 1 Bei Xinhua Jie, Xicheng  
When: September 21, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 50-380 yuan  
Tel: 6605 7006

### The East is Red

Who: General Political Department Song and Dance Group  
Where: National Grand Theater Concert Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People  
When: September 24-25, 7:30 pm

Admission: 180-680 yuan  
Tel: 6655 0000

### Goodbye and Hello: Cai Jianya 2008 Asia Tour Beijing Live

Who: Cai Jianya  
Where: Beijing Exhibition Theater, 135 Xizhimen Wai Dajie, Xicheng  
When: September 26, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 180-1,000 yuan  
Tel: 6835 4455

### Dejan Lazic Piano Recital

Who: Dejan Lazic  
Where: Zhongshan Music Hall, inside Zhongshan Park, Dongcheng  
When: September 28, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 30-380 yuan  
Tel: 6559 8306

### China Philharmonic Orchestra 2008-2009 Music Festival Opening Concert

Who: China Philharmonic Orchestra  
Where: Beijing Concert Hall, 1 Bei Xinhua Jie, Xicheng  
When: September 27, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 80-880 yuan  
Tel: 6605 7006

### Classic Concert by China National Symphony Orchestra

Who: China National Symphony Orchestra  
Where: National Grand Theater Concert Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People  
When: September 27, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 80-480 yuan  
Tel: 6655 0000

### Paul Badura-Skoda Piano Recital

Who: Paul Badura-Skoda  
Where: National Grand Theater Concert Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People  
When: September 28, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 80-580 yuan  
Tel: 6655 0000

### Concert by Duocai Guizhou Symphony Orchestra

Who: Duocai Guizhou Symphony Orchestra  
Where: National Grand Theater Concert Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People  
When: September 26, 7:30 pm

Admission: 50-380 yuan  
Tel: 6655 0000

### Eason Chan 2008 Beijing Concert

Who: Eason Chan  
Where: Beijing Workers Gymnasium, Gongti Bei Lu, Chaoyang  
When: September 28, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 120-1,280 yuan  
Tel: 6417 7845

### The Japanese Kabuki Rock Tour 2008

Who: Miyavi  
Where: Star Live, 79 Hepin Xi Lu, Dongcheng  
When: September 28, 3 pm  
Admission: 280-880 yuan  
Tel: 5123 3866

### Purely France - Recital by Piano Virtuoso Pascal Roge, France

Who: Pascal Roge  
Where: Zhongshan Music Hall, inside Zhongshan Park, Dongcheng  
When: September 30, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 30-380 yuan  
Tel: 6559 8306

### Large-screen Audio-Visual Concert for Film and Light Music

Who: Firefly Light Music Group  
Where: Zhongshan Music Hall, inside Zhongshan Park, Dongcheng  
When: October 1, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 50-880 yuan  
Tel: 6559 8306

### The 11th Beijing Music Festival Gala

Who: Conducted by Matthias Foremny  
Where: Zhongshan Music Hall, inside Zhongshan Park, Dongcheng  
When: October 2, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 100-980 yuan  
Tel: 6559 8306

### Peter Donohoe Piano Recital

Who: Peter Donohoe  
Where: National Grand Theater Concert Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People  
When: October 2, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 80-580 yuan  
Tel: 6655 0000

### Sylvia

Who: China National Ballet  
Where: National Grand Theater Opera Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People  
When: September 28 - October 1, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 80-500 yuan  
Tel: 6655 0000

### Opera

### Peking Opera: To Conquer the Town of Lu Peacefully

Who: Peking Opera House of Beijing  
Where: National Grand Theater Opera Hall, on the west side of the Great Hall of the People  
When: September 21-23, 6:30 pm

Admission: 50-480 yuan  
Tel: 6655 0000

### Richard Strauss:

### Der Rosenkavalier

Who: Deutsche Opera Berlin  
Where: Poly Theater, 14 Dongzhimen Nan Dajie, Chaoyang  
When: October 3-5, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 100-980 yuan  
Tel: 6500 1188 ext 5621

### Modern Sky Festival: domestic rock stars and bands

As the largest independent record label, Modern Sky will organize 68 domestic bands and artists to perform on three stages from September 30 to October 2 at Haidian Park, including the main stage, rock stage and electronic stage.

Last week, the company announced the list of performers in this year's festival. The foreign bands and artists are not included on the list. They invited big names in Chinese rock history, including Zhang Chu and He Yong. Both of them, pioneers of Chinese rock, were active in the rock scene of the 1980s and 1990s.

Zhang is regarded as the most lonesome singer-poet and He a self-styled punk. Along with Dou Wei, they became known as the "Three Prominents of Moyan," after they released their album under Moyan Culture in 1994.

Zhang will perform on the first day on the main stage with classic single "Sister." The song recounts a dark story of familial abuse and repression through the eyes of a child and with the repeated exclamations, "Sister! I wanna go home. Take a hold of my hand, I'm a bit sleepy. Sister! I wanna go home. Take a hold of my hand, you don't need to be afraid" during the rousing chorus many fans were moved to tears.

He will perform on the second day's main stage and sing "Pretty Girl," which explores materialism and gender issues.

Besides the big names in rock, some famous bands will perform in the three-day festival, including Carsick Cars, who performed with Sonic Youth in Prague and Vienna in August, 2007.

In the 2007 Modern Sky Festival, 120 bands and artists from both home and abroad attended and 50,000 fans participated in the festival. On its earlier list, the company invited Lou Reed, Blonde Redhead and Bright Eyes.

Last month, the company canceled its plan to invite foreign bands and artists, so the company invited big names in Chinese rock.

Formed in 1997, Modern Sky Entertainment Corporation is one of the leading providers of contemporary Chinese music content and is also home to one the leading retail distribution networks for independent music in China. With a catalog of nearly 100 titles, Modern Sky maintains the largest market share in the world for Chinese rock music content.

### Midi Music Festival: after parties in bars

In its plan, besides 50 domestic bands and artists, the Midi Music Festival will have 10 foreign bands and artists performing on six stages at the Olympic Sports Center Stadium from September 29 to October 2. It is the first year the festival is not being held at Haidian Park.

The six stages include first stage, second stage, Greenpeace stage, Yan stage, hip hop stage and folk stage, featuring different styles of music from rock n' roll and hip hop to folk and experimental.

The first stage is in the stadium, which can seat 40,000 people. The other stages are around the stadium.

Besides the performance in the sports center, there will be other performances at night in several bars, including Star Live, Yugongyishan, Mao Live House, New Lucky Bar, 13 Club, D22 and Jiangjinjiu Bar.

The events in the bars will not be organized by the Midi School, but interested clubs can receive all the participating bands.

By He Jianwei

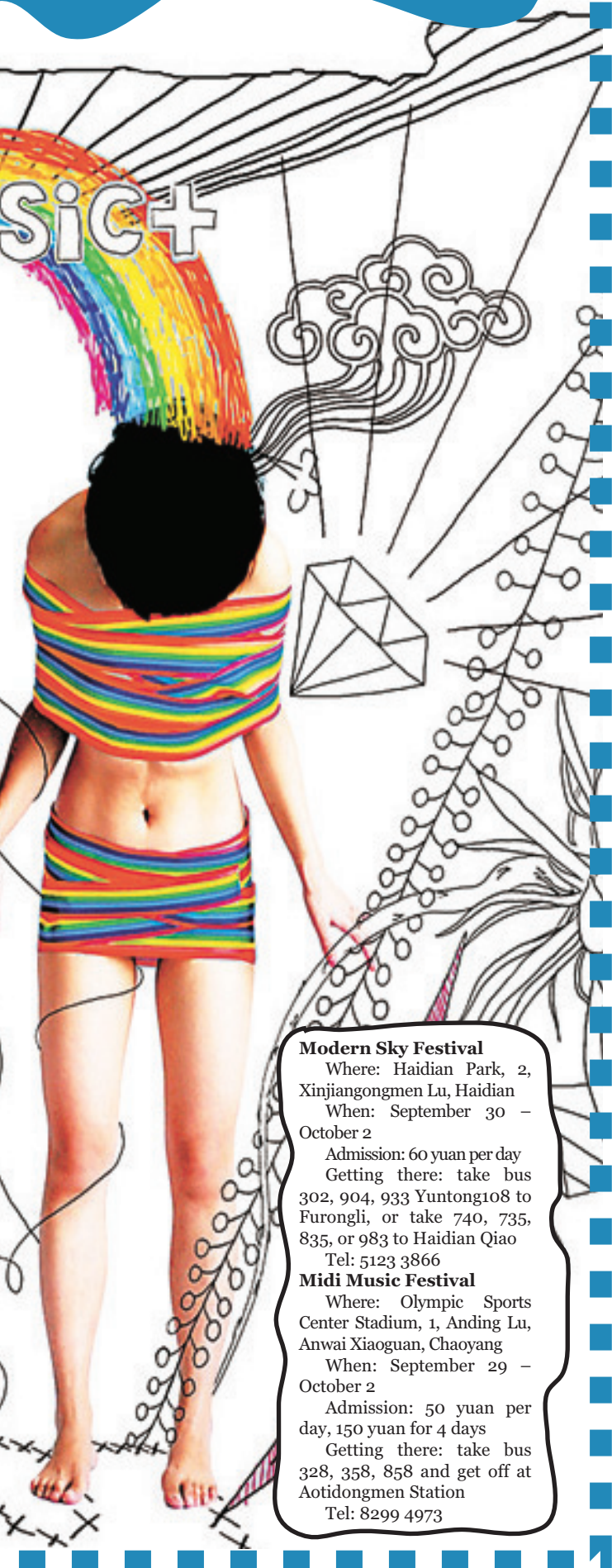
The Modern Sky Festival and the Midi Music Festival are the two largest rock festivals in Beijing every year. The Midi Music Festival, which should have been held in May, was rescheduled to the end of September. If





# ck the city

luck, rock fans will enjoy two feasts of rock music during this National Day holiday. One of them, Midi, is still pending the government's approval. If the two festivals are held concurrently, it will be difficult for fans to decide which one to attend.



## Modern Sky Festival

Where: Haidian Park, 2, Xijiangongmen Lu, Haidian  
When: September 30 – October 2

Admission: 60 yuan per day  
Getting there: take bus 302, 904, 933 Yuntong108 to Furongli, or take 740, 735, 835, or 983 to Haidian Qiao  
Tel: 5123 3866

## Midi Music Festival

Where: Olympic Sports Center Stadium, 1, Anding Lu, Anwai Xiaoguan, Chaoyang  
When: September 29 – October 2

Admission: 50 yuan per day, 150 yuan for 4 days  
Getting there: take bus 328, 358, 858 and get off at Aotidongmen Station  
Tel: 8299 4973

## Exhibition

### PixCell – Kohei Nawa Solo Exhibition

In the latest works from his on-going PixCell series, Kohei Nawa shows his works in a specially-constructed 5 by 5 meter white space-within-the-gallery-space.

He manipulates the viewers' preconceptions of three-dimensional versus two-dimensional space and objects.

The artist uses a wide range of every-day materials in his drawings, silk-screen, video, installation and painting works to question the traditional visual and temporal boundaries of sculpture. His artworks are the byproduct of his ongoing research into the nature of sculpture and its infinite facets and possibilities.

Kohei's strength as an artist lies in his ability to invent new sculptural language by changing our perceptions and challenging our expectations when viewing art objects.

Where: Pékin Fine Arts, 241 Caochangdi, Chaoyang

When: Until October 31, daily except Monday and Tuesday 10 am – 6 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 5127 3220

### Heavy Industries – Young-Hae Chang Solo Exhibition

The exhibition shows the works with the theme of the Chinese man's life and suffering by means of the literary text and sound peculiar to the group.

Where: DoART Gallery, 261 Caochangdi, Changyang

When: Until November 2, daily except Monday 10 am – 6 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 8457 4550, 8477 5158

### Game of Acting the Fool

This exhibition is trying to review the "Baby Phenomenon," "Sex and Idol Phenomenon" and "Common Customs and Cartoon Phenomenon" that appeared in Chinese contemporary art since the 1990s from a new perspective and attempts to find a location which suits the atmosphere of Chinese contemporary art better for the trends of similar styles. The exhibition tries to build up a theoretical framework of explanation for the appearance of this extensive art phenomenon



Pékin Fine Arts

## Book talk

### The Slaughter Pavilion – a book launch by Catherine Sampson

Cathy Sampson is back with her fourth novel *The Slaughter Pavilion*. Following the success of her previous three titles featuring journalist Robin Ballantyne, the fourth one exposes the hidden underbelly of Beijing.

Where: The Bookworm, 4 Sanlitun Nan Lu, Chaoyang

When: September 23, 7:30 pm

Admission: Free (tickets are required)

Tel: 6586 9507



Gallery TN



Magician Space



Magician Space

during globalization.

Where: Gallery TN, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Until November 22, daily except Monday 10 am – 6 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 84599550

### Ni Haifeng Solo Exhibition

Where: Joy Art, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Until November 30, daily except Monday 10 am – 6 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 8459 9788

### Dandeli Art Space

#### First Choice Party

Where: Dandeli, Loft 1 Beijing Image Base, 3 Guangqu Lu, Chaoyang

When: until September 21, daily except Monday 10 am – 6 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 6770 8966

### Heart Moves Before Body – Yu Bogong Solo Exhibition

Where: Magician Space, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: Until November 5, daily

except Monday 10:30 am – 7 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 8459 9635, 8709 3557

### Border of Virtuality

Where: Han Ji Yun Contemporary Space, A 1 Beigao, Cuig zhuang, Chaoyang

When: Until October 3, daily am – 7 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 6434 0266

### The Beijing Presentation of Zhang Li-Chen Touring Exhibition

Where: National Art Museum of China, 1 Wusi Dajie, Dongchen

When: Until September 26, am – 5 pm

Admission: 20 yuan

Tel: 6400 6326

### Weng Qianyu Wood Engraved Painting Exhibition

Where: National Art Museum of China, 1 Wusi Dajie, Dongchen

When: Until September 25, am – 5 pm

Admission: 20 yuan

Tel: 6400 6326

### An evening with Linda Jaivin

Linda Jaivin is the author of five novels, including the international bestseller, the comic-erotic *Eat Me and The Infernal Optimist*, which was shortlisted for the Australian Literature Society Gold Medal. Her non-fiction includes the China memoir, *The Monkey and the Dragon*. Co-editing with Geremie Barm of the acclaimed anthology *New Ghosts, Old Dreams: Chinese Rebel Voices*, her translation credits also include the subtitles for films including *Farewell My Concubine* and *Hero*.

She is currently finishing a novel based on an episode in the life of George 'Chinese' Morrison, set in China and Japan in 1904 and working on an opera.

On this particular evening, she will talk about her books and how nearly every one reflects in some way on her relationship with China.

Where: The Bookworm, 4 Sanlitun Nan Lu, Chaoyang

When: September 25, 7:30 pm

Admission: 20-30 yuan

Tel: 6586 9507

Continued on page 14 ...



... continued from page 13

14

City pulse

Editors: Yu Shanshan Li Jing Designer: Yang Gen

BEIJING TODAY

## Movie

### Comedy of Innocence

Where: French Culture Center, 1/F, Guangcai International Mansion, 18 Gongti Xi Lu, Chaoyang

When: September 19 and 24, 5 pm

Admission: 10-20 yuan  
Tel: 6553 2627

### Hunting and Gathering (Ensemble, C'est Tout)

Where: French Culture Center, 1/F, Guangcai International Mansion, 18 Gongti Xi Lu, Chaoyang

When: September 19-20, 7:30 pm

Admission: 10-20 yuan  
Tel: 6553 2627

### Rain Man

Where: Club Obiwan, 4 Xihai Xiyuan, Xicheng

When: September 19, 9 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 6617 3231

### Big Cities, Small Episodes

A selection of short films and documentaries from the Hong Kong Independent Short Film & Video Awards Festival will be shown. Director, author and professor Zhang Xianmen will be present and answer questions after the screenings.

Where: Cherry Lane Movie, Yugong Yishan, 3 Zhangzizhong Lu, Xicheng

When: September 21, 8 pm

Admission: 20-40 yuan

Tel: 6404 2711

### Belle de Jour

Where: French Culture Center, 1/F, Guangcai International Mansion, 18 Gongti Xi Lu, Chaoyang

When: September 20, 3 pm

Admission: 10-20 yuan

Tel: 6553 2627

### The Untouchables

Where: Club Obiwan, 4 Xihai Xiyuan, Xicheng

When: September 24, 9 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 6617 3231

### Losers and Winners

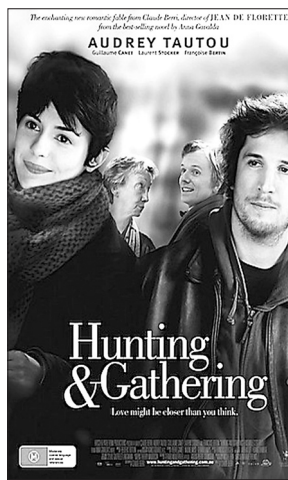
The film is a critically-acclaimed documentary which won 10 awards at independent film festivals around the world. It recounts the disassembly of the most modern Coke factory in the world for transportation to China.

Where: Beijing Channel Zero Media, 7G Building 4 Meilin Garden, 33 Zizhuyuan Lu, Haidian

When: September 25, 7 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 8855 0622



## Outdoors

### Beijing by Bike-Hutong Alley

This bicycle tours will take you to places where tourists can hardly reach including small backstreets, concessions, old brothels, tea houses, markets, temples and the ordinary Beijing family. This tour gives a true picture of daily life for a lot of people in the city.

Where: meet at Cycle China Office, 12 Jingshan Dong Jie, Dongcheng

When: September 21, 2 pm

Cost: 150-400 yuan  
Tel: 6402 5653 (reservations are essential)

### A walk up the Incense Trail

During this hike you will have a chance to look around Dajue Temple, a beautiful one built in the Liao Dynasty.

The temple in Western Beijing, has been renovated. It contains various shrines, a restaurant, and guestrooms.

From the temple, a pilgrim trail leads to the top of the mountain. The trail is in regular use, paved with rocks in some places and is relatively free of obstructions. Along the way there are ruined teahouses once used by pilgrims, fire breaks and watch towers. Right now there is an abundance of wild flowers.

Where: Meet on the ground floor of Starbucks (Lido Holiday Inn, Jiangtai Lu, Chaoyang)

When: September 21, 8 am

Cost: 350 yuan  
Tel: 13910025516 (reservations at Beijing Hikers are essential)

### Eunuch Tombs, Mural and Temples

The Eunuch tombs and temple complex, nestled in

the mountains, remain authentic and peaceful. The decoration of this temple in 1443 was funded by Li Tong, a wealthy eunuch who attracted artists from the imperial court to produce stunning murals and statuary.

A five-minute walk away is Tianyi Mu which was built in 1605 for Ming Emperor Wanli's favorite eunuch, Tian Yi. The eunuch served three emperors and acted as Wanli's mentor and confidant.

A small exhibition hall houses more information about the Chinese eunuch from oracle characters of the word "castration," pictures of castrated eunuchs of Dowager empress Cixi and her eunuch Li Lianying and China's last eunuch, Sun Yaoting.

Where: Meet at the Chinese Culture Club (CCC) (Kent Center, 29 Anjialou, Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang) for bus transportation.

When: September 21, 9 am - 2 pm

Cost: 230 yuan  
Tel: 6432 9341, 6432 1041 (reservations are essential)

### Royal Canal boat tour to the Summer Palace

This boat and walking tour provides an opportunity to see a bit of everything of the capital, both historical sites and the daily life of Beijingers. Cruise along the imperial canal in a traditional-style motorized canopy boat past the Beijing Zoo, Beijing Aquarium and the Purple Bamboo Garden.

Where: meet in the square of the Beijing Exhibition Center, 135 Xizhimen Wai Dajie, Xicheng

When: September 20, 9 am

- 3:30 pm

Cost: 200-350 yuan  
Tel: 6432 9341, 6432 1041 (reservations are essential)

### Yellow Mountain and Ancient Anhui Villages

Huangshan, in the south of Anhui province, is known as 'the loveliest mountain of China.' With its 72 peaks, it is considered one of the most unique and beautiful mountain ranges in the world and it is the only mountain listed in China's Top Ten Scenic Spots.

When: Fly to Huangshan on September 19 and fly back on September 21

Cost: 5,350 yuan  
Tel: 6432 9341, 6432 1041 (reservations are essential)

### Five days at Kanas Lake In North Xinjiang

Near the border of Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia and Siberia is wonderful Kanas Lake where the Tuwa minority lives. The "treasure light" integrating with the beautiful Kanas Lake view, the white glaciers, the green grasslands, the boundless forest and the mist in the mountains, will make visitors feel as if they are in a fairyland. Surrounded by snowcapped mountains, the long bean-shaped lake presents a pretty landscape of forests in all imaginable colors in autumn. The name Kanas Hu means "beautiful, rich and mysterious" in Mongolian and if one sees it changing colors several times each day, he or she will understand why.

When: Fly to Urumqi on September 20 and fly back on September 24

Cost: 10,950 yuan  
Tel: 6432 9341, 6432 1041 (reservations are essential)

## Nightlife

### Yugong Yishan Birthday Party

Where: Yugong Yishan, West Courtyard former site of Duan Qirui Government, 2-3 Zhangzizhong Lu, Dongcheng

When: September 19, 9 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 6404 2711

### Beijing Calling

Where: Club Obiwan, 4 Xihai Xiyuan, Xicheng

When: September 19, 10 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 6617 3231

### Fashion Night

Where: Lan Club, 4/F LG Twin Towers, 12B Jianguomen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang

When: September 19, 10 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 5109 6012

### Resident Night

Where: White Rabbit Club, C2, Haoyun Jie, 29 Zaoying Lu, Chaoyang

When: September 19, 10 pm

Admission: 50 yuan

Tel: 13321123678

### Subs, Easygoing and The K

The 2 Kolegas reopening party continues with a strong lineup and DJs keep things rocking into the night.

Where: 2 Kolegas Bar, inside the drive-in movie theater park, 21 Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: September 20, 9 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 8196 4820

### White Rabbit Anniversary

Owners Yang Bing and Donald Summers bring all the local DJs down the rabbit-hole. Expect nearly 20 DJs and live acts to celebrate the rabbit's first birthday.

Where: White Rabbit Club, C2, Haoyun Jie, 29 Zaoying Lu, Chaoyang

When: September 20, 10 pm

Admission: 50 yuan

Tel: 13321123678

### Alternative Nation

The club's very own Alternative Dance Club night will bring audiences the very finest that they will not hear anywhere else in town.

Where: The Boat, Liangmahe Nan Lu, Sanlitun, Chaoyang

When: September 25, 9:30 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 6460 5512

## Folk Activities

### Tying Chinese Knots: necklace

Learn to make auspicious knots and work out your own knots such as knots, butterfly or lily shoes and other patterns of crafts.

Where: Chinese Culture Club (CCC), Kent Center, 29 Anjialou, Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: September 21, 2-5 pm

Cost: 120 yuan

Tel: 6432 9341, 6432 1041 (registration is important)

### Hands-on:

#### Chinese papercutting

Chinese Paper Cutting (Jianzhi) is the first type of paper-cutting design, since paper was invented by Cai Lun in the Eastern Han Dynasty in China. The technique later spread to other parts of the world with different

regions adopting their own cultural styles.

Because the cut outs are also used to decorate doors and windows, they are sometimes referred to as chuanguhua, meaning window flower.

There are two methods of manufacture: one with scissors, the other with knives. So Chinese Paper Cutting consists of Jianzhi (using scissors) and Kezhi (using knives) accordingly.

Where: Chinese Culture Club (CCC), Kent Center, 29 Anjialou, Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: September 24, 10 am - noon

Cost: 120 yuan

Tel: 6432 9341, 6432 1041 (registration is important)

### Cricket (insect) culture and fighting

The last two decades witnessed the increasing popularity of this cricket-fighting competition in Beijing, where the game has been held for over 20 years.

After being weighed, the bugs are separated into different groups like athletes in weight lifting or boxing events. The fighting is exciting and fierce but not cruel or bloody.

Cricket living and fighting containers and tools also deserve attention. Some are extravagant antique containers (villas), and cricket apartments made from ivory, porcelain and rare wood carvings.

During the activity, a cricket expert will be invited to talk about everything on crickets and their extravagant containers (villas), and cricket apartments.

After the talk, a cricket fighting demonstration will be conducted and then crickets will be offered to all participants and competition will be held in groups.

Where: Chinese Culture Club (CCC), Kent Center, 29 Anjialou, Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: September 23, 10-11:30 am

Cost: 60 yuan

Tel: 6432 9341, 6432 1041 (registration is important)

### Calligraphy

The calligraphy course is set up for non mandarin-speaking students and conducted in English. It covers everything from the meaning and evolution of the characters and culture to the history and music of the period.

Where: Chinese Culture Club (CCC), Kent Center, 29 Anjialou, Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: September 23, 10-11:30 am

Cost: 120 yuan

Tel: 6432 9341, 6432 1041 (registration is important)

### Hand-pulled noodles and dumplings

This class gives you the chance to make longevity noodles, which are different from the Shaanxi noodles and are made for birthdays, especially for the elderly. You also have the opportunity to make dumplings.

Where: Chinese Culture Club (CCC), Kent Center, 29 Anjialou, Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang

When: September 19, 10:30 am - 1 pm

Cost: 200 yuan

Tel: 6432 9341, 6432 1041 (registration is important)



# The creative power of youth in Beijing

15

Shopping

By Gan Tian

Beijing is turning into a creative giant with the younger generation gradually taking control. Walking through the ancient city, visitors can easily see the evidence. The younger set may be a little naive and childish at times, but they still represent the most creative minds in the city. Beijing Today presents the best.

## T-shirts plastered with the past

By Zheng Lu

"It's so very interesting!" one customer said when he stepped through the door of Plastered T-shirts in Nanluoguxiang. Pointing at an old-style thermos bottle adorned with colorful flowers, she explained to her daughter, "In the old days, when my parents got married, people used to send these things as wedding gifts."

With the Chinese elements of fifty years ago in place, the store attracts several generations. Children are curious about old things and love to listen to stories of past generations while middle-aged people enjoy wallowing in nostalgia.

The main business of the shop is T-shirts, which sell at a fixed price of 98 yuan and never lack Chinese feeling. Ako Senno, a Japanese woman who works in Beijing said she loved the ones containing prints of the Beijing Yogurt label and Kong Pao Chicken.

The designer and the shopkeeper Dominic Johnson-Hill was once a visitor a decade ago. He loved Beijing so much that he stayed and had the idea of designing masterpieces with Chinese characteristics. It seems that the popularity of his items has proved his effort was not in vain.

### Plastered T-shirts

Flagship Store

Where: 61 Nanluogu Xiang,

Dongcheng District

Open: 10 am - 10 pm

Tel: 6407 8425

Other locations:

Where: 9 Yandaixie Jie (Smoke Alley), Xicheng District

Tel: 134 8884 8855

Other branches

Where: Shop D54 Main Second Street, 798 Art District, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Dashanzi, Chaoyang District

Where: F1, No. 078, Yue Show Market, 99 Chaoyangmen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang District



Photo by Zheng Lu



Photo provided by Hipibond

## Hipibond colors up the condom

By Zhang Dongya

Condoms are always available in the obvious places, like pharmacies and sex shops, Xipi Gege, Hipibond that sell condoms in small fancy shops. Its style in prophylactics come in many colorful designs.

Hipibond has opened 10 shops in the city since its Xidan Store in 2007. No matter if you are shopping in Houhai, Wudaokou or the suburbs like Daxing and Tongzhou, you will find the shop crowded with young people.

Founded by three young guys, Hipibond sells condoms with all kinds of designs and functions to spice up young couples' sex lives. The salesgirls patiently introduce each of the 10 kinds of condoms along with its distinctive function to customers.

In addition, a great variety of gifts are available and feature the condom as a core theme. Taiwanese and Japanese designers add a more fashionable flavor to the products. Cellphone chains, key chains and amulets are designed in the shape of a condom. These condoms are just for fun, of course, and not to be used. The store also provides a gift-wrapping service.

"Hipibond hopes to attract customers with the following character traits: playful, fashionable and true to oneself," its Web site claims. So far, it has collected 40,000 customers from all over the country. It opened its Internet store so buyers can choose products online and make purchases from home.

### Hipibond Xidan Shop

Where: B3-d9, 77 Street, 180, Xidan Bei Dajie, Xicheng District

Open: 9 am - 9:30 pm

Tel: 8950 6041

## Hotter than a match head

By Venus Lee

Although people seldom use matches nowadays, the little wooden fireballs can still add a spark to life. In romantic cafes, bars, restaurants or the candlelite at home, matches can rekindle memories of long ago. So if you are interested in lighting up your life a little and enjoy collecting small fancy items, matches are a good option.

Walking into the Yandai Xiejie, one cannot help but notice the huge match in front of Match Quotes. Its glittering array of matchboxes are pure art.

The content of matchbox covers is all-encompassing, with themes which range from history, politics and sport to military, culture and art. The NBA Chicago Bull's series is very popular with basketball fans. People who love political and historical figures are drawn to the World Communist Leaders series including the Chairman Mao and Che

Guevara. Culture and art fans can choose the classic novels series, movie poster series, flags series, Peking opera facial mask series and various glass bottle series. Military fanatics set their sights on the Art of War series, weaponry series and Nazi Germany series at Match Quotes. The young ladies love the cartoon series and animal series. And, not for the faint of heart, there's the Playboy bunny series, too.

The price of each matchbox set ranges from 20 to 30 Yuan. Customers rarely buy these matches for actually use, but for gifting or collecting.

The store's products have kept pace with the times, too. During the Beijing Olympic Games, Match Quotes presented its Olympic Series with various sports items in cartoon style.

### Match Quotes

Where: 12 Yandai Xiejie, Houhai, Xicheng District.

Open: 10 am - midnight

Tel: 130 0102 0366



Photo by Venus Lee

Continued on page 16 ...

Editor: Gan Tian Designer: Yang Gen

BEIJING TODAY



... continued from page 15



Photo by Wang Yu

## Thinking inside the box

By Wang Yu

Jiong Box, founded by four young people including two members of the local band Convenient Store, is a lattice shop with popular young entrepreneurs.

Compared with other shops of the same type, Jiong Box is much bigger and well decorated. Every shelf is divided into lattices and designers who want to sell their trinkets can rent boxes to showcase their wares.

Named after "Jiong," a popular Chinese character used by netizens to describe an embarrassing moment, the shop spotlights a style of Beijing's pop culture. Hand-painted patterns of cartoon figures cover all the walls inside and out.

The cost to rent a lattice ranges from 100 to 400 yuan per month depending on the size of the showcase. Not only products of local designers such as Fat Rabbit Zhouzhou and Beijing Story are displayed but those made by designers from Shanghai and Fujian are also on display.

Classic old toys such as cars and robots are the most conspicuous goods that stoke many childhood memories and, of course, come with high price tags. A brand named BRICKS was created by Yangkaihui, one of the shop owners and is comprised of key rings made of Lego bricks of different colors. General trinkets such as bags, cigarette boxes and stuffed animals are also displayed in the lattices.

The shop can be seen as an i-Mart which is open everyday. It is great fun to think inside the box.

### Jiong Box

Where: 1222, West Tower of SOHO Shangdu, 8 Dongdaqiao Lu, Chaoyang District  
Open: 11 am - 9 pm

## The good old days never die



Photos by Amor Mao

By Gan Tian

Nan Luoguxiang is always a great place to seek out creative stuff. It held Beijing's iMarkets on several occasions. Box Community opened there last month, wishing to bring something more to this old alley.

This is a small area with products from different designers. Each rents a box in the shop to display his or her works and handcrafts. The shop owner and the designers collect the profits as a team. This business mode has become very popular in the city's creative circle. There are two boxes containing articles from ye olden days.

The Castles of the 1980s is a box containing toys from past decades. The tin cars and toy trains still have some ancient stains on them, which prove they are second-hand items, but remain some of the shop's best sellers. There is a miniature wooden deer with a missing ear that sells for 25 yuan, more expensive than a new one.

Bricks is another boxmay have customers thinking the stumbled into the Lego headquarters. What is different

here is that these colorful bricks are already arranged into different shapes like small dolls, dogs and deer. You just need to buy it and attach it to your key ring to add some color and a child-like feel to your life.

Box Community also features folk crafts. The Dancing Wooden Doll is a toy made of fewer than 20 wooden bricks. When you squeeze it, the doll dances showing different amusing poses. This hand-made craft originated long ago and was lost in the market for a long time.

### Box Community

Where: 91 Nan Luogu Xiang, Xicheng District  
Open: 10 am - 11 pm  
Tel: 6402 9800



## Time in a bottle

By Wang Yu

What can one put into a simple and empty bottle? Powder, liquor, a love note or possibly nothing. At Light Gray, the possibilities are endless.

Inspired by Danish designer Mads Hagstrom's The Flow Market, two people opened this concept-selling shop at the end of last year. "The idea of putting certain words about life in containers is not original," Lingyu, one of the co-founders, said.

"But we thought that may be what people need here in Beijing. There are many who have problems with their frame of mind or feel unhappy about the world, even though they are rich. As the old adage goes, 'money can't buy happiness.' We thought people might find comfort in these bottles," he said.

The shop is in the basement of a model shop on Gulou Dong Dajie, which is considered one of the most stylish streets in the city. "As many others who start their own shops, we hoped to find a place that gelled with the shop's attitude and created several alternative schemes," Lingyu said.

The 15-square meter exhibition room is clean and emits a feeling of healing. White is the theme, as there are only containers such as bottles and jars on the shelves under the bright lamp light. In such a place, there is no wonder that buyers are touched by simple words revolving around regular lives and emotions like "passion and patience" "Beijing's blue sky" and "no excuse" on the containers.

On the flipside, the outer

room is dark with sofas, pictures, books, magazines and sticky notes on the wall build up a home-like atmosphere.

"Whether people agree with the concept or not depends on their experiences about life and values," Lingyu said. Far beyond his expectations, things have been selling well since the shop opened. To most, it is truly insane to buy an empty 150-milliliter bottle for 35 yuan. "But once the idea created by the containers echoed in the hearts of the buyers, the bottles become full and valuable."

### Light Gray

Where: B-1, 39 Gulou Dong Dajie, Dongcheng District  
Open: 1 pm - 10 pm



Photo by Song Nannan



# Fine flavors from Central Asia

By Gan Tian

Xinjiang has long been considered a dream land – a place of nothing but fine meat and beautiful women. Beijing Today selects some of the capital's best Xinjiang restaurants whose cuisine may make you rethink your National Day travel plans.

## The foods of many ethnic groups

By Gan Tian

The Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region is a land shared by many ethnic groups. Its food is characterized by roast mutton, kebabs, roast fish and rice eaten with the hands. You can also taste different meats like lamb, beef, camel, chicken and goose, vegetables like carrot, tomato, onion, pepper, eggplant and celery, as well as fruits and dairy. Rumors say Xinjiang produces millions of tons of beef and lamb but no vegetables.

Xinjiang people are very practical in their culinary conquests. Taste always trumps appearance. Shouzhua fan, a lamb and rice dish eaten with the hands, has remained popular for thousands of years. The plain-looking Banmian – cold, seasoned noodles – never gets old. The regions most famous dish is Dapanji, a massive plate of spicy chicken served throughout China.

Shouzhua fan starts with common materials: fresh lamb, carrots, onions, vegetable oil, melted sheep fat and rice. There are 10 variations, like lamb, chicken and vegetables, but lamb is always most common. The dish is soft, delicious and nutritious. It is a staple at festivals, funerals and weddings.

Another dish, Pulled Noodles, is enjoyed by many ethnic groups. Deep-fried lamb, stir-fried eggs and tomatoes and stir-fried chillies and lamb usually accompany the dish. The noodles are pliable and tough, smooth and delicious. The noodles can also be cut into 4-centimeter sections after boiling, then stir fried with fat, lamb, tomatoes and chili peppers.

Be aware that many Xinjiang people are Muslim and they do not eat pork, donkey, dog or any large-sized predator. Most Xinjiang dishes are prepared in strict accordance with Muslim tradition.

*Shouzhua rou, a lamb and rice dish eaten with the hands*

*Roasted mutton leg*  
Photos provided by Xinjiang Muqincai



*The inside of Golden Loulan Food Square*  
Photo by Venus Lee

## Nights of fine food and beautiful girls

By Venus Lee

Music and dining are some of the most enjoyable things in the world. Many restaurants attempt to merge the two, and the ones with a regional or cultural theme succeed best. Golden Loulan Food Square combines typical Uyghur flavor with Xinjiang song and dance.

Ushered by beautiful Uyghur girls, diners will be dazzled by its magnificent and luxurious decorations. Rare tapestries, unique columns and exquisite ornaments whisk the clientele away to Urumqi. All 30 VIP boxes are named after historical sites in the region. The setting, accompanied by Uyghur music, is like that of an ancient Turkic palace.

The senior cooks and ingredients

are all from Xinjiang, so every dish is as authentic as possible. Roast sheep, pig feet, roast legs of lamb, Xinjiang Rice, Shamusu, shish kebab and yogurt salad are popular orders.

As night falls, pretty girls and boys from Tianshan Mountain dance in festival costume to Xinjiang music. The young dancers invite diners to participate.

The subtle and mysterious culture of China's west combine with fine flavors and passionate dance for an unforgettable evening.

### Golden Loulan Food Square

Where: 8 Xijiekou Wai Dajie, Xicheng; opposite Beijing Normal University east gate

Open: 10 am – 11 pm

Tel: 6202 9666, 6202 4888

## Homestyle cooking at Xinjiang Mother

By Zhang Dongya

Through the alley in Sanyuanli is a signboard with a mother camel and her son. The sign marks Xinjiang Muqincai, an authentic Xinjiang restaurant. Though deeply hidden, hundreds of diners are drawn to it by its reputation.

The restaurant serves waiting diners in its lobby on neat tables with shiny tableware. Tea and water are offered before dinner for free, and chopsticks come without charge.

The most popular dish is Mother's homemade yogurt. The bowl of yogurt – topped with raisins and peanuts – is served with a jar of sugar, since non-locals find the flavor too sour. However, for Xinjiang people, it can never be sour enough.

The restaurant serves large portions of Xinjiang food, like a mother would serve her family. Everyone is guaranteed to leave with a full stomach. The waiters are trained to remind customers when they are ordering too much.

Taste Xinjiang dishes like Dapanji,

Zhuafan and na'an bread, a local bread sliced up like pizza.

Dapanji is the most popular Xinjiang dish, with chicken, potatoes, chillies, garlic and onions in a fragrant sauce with star anise and Sichuan Pepper. Usually, people eat noodles with Dapanji, but you can also use na'an to soak up the sauce.

Each table is equipped with a service bell. The waiters arrive immediately once you ring it.

Mother's menu has tempting pictures and captions in both Chinese and English. Make a reservation in advance, otherwise you will be left waiting for a seat at peak hours.

### Xinjiang Muqincai

Where: Building 5, Sanyuan Li residential quarter, Sanyuan Lu, Chaoyang District

Open: 11 am – 10:30 pm

Tel: 6468 2399



Continued on page 18 ...



... continued from page 17

18

Food

## Xinjiang roses are red

By Han Manman

Xinjiang Red Rose Restaurant, opposite Worker's Stadium in Chaoyang, packs in the crowds for rowdy nights of music and belly dancing.

Red Rose is worth a visit if you like three things: Dapanji, belly dancers and beer. The Dapanji is great with ample chunks of chicken and fantastic handmade flat noodles. Although the dish can be found almost anywhere in Beijing, Red Rose does

it especially well.

The belly dancers are fun to watch. Live music is the normal backdrop. Performances are popular with locals as well as Western businessmen, so arrive early to get a good seat.

As the evening goes on, the customers become the entertainment. They

are brought up to dance with the girls, they toast each other loudly and, once drunk, hug each other.

The song and dance routines and beautiful Uigher dancing girls can get anyone out of his seat. Diners are dragged up to dance, so beware, prolonged eye-contact with any of the girls may find you with a snake on your shoulders as you are led to the stage.

Apart from the must-order dapanji, be sure

to try the roast goat, latiaozi and chaokaorou, pit-roasted lamb fried with chunks of bread.

The location is a convenient first stop for a night on the town. It is a 10-minute walk from Sanlitun.

**Red Rose**

Where: 7 Xiang Xingfu Yicun, Sanlitun, Gongti, opposite Worker's Stadium north gate

Open: 11 am – 11 pm

Tel: 6415 5741

Cost: 100 yuan per one

Latiaozi of Red Rose  
Photo by Han Manman



Mushrooms with beef  
Photo provided by Yijinyuan Restaurant

## Restaurant with the royal treatment

By Milo Lee

Among all the Muslim restaurants in Beijing, Yijinyuan would be the most luxurious. With its courtyard architectural style, Yijinyuan has the dining atmosphere of a royal palace.

One cannot talk about Muslim cuisine without mentioning lamb. In Yijinyuan, the most served dish is lamb. The meat is chopped off the bones, seasoned and served to customers, along with na'an bread,

sauce and cumin. It is very soft inside and crispy on the outside.

Yijinyuan means beautiful Islamic restaurant. The giant red pillars engraved with golden dragons, white marble stairs and square dome lamps forming a picture of a dragon make the restaurant look like a royal banquet. Besides the giant dining hall, there are also well-equipped VIP rooms. The lavish ambiance and service has made Yijinyuan a

top pick for business banquets and weddings.

During dinner time, there are dances and other folk performances to entertain customers. Belly dancers clad in ethnic clothing complete with snakes are among the evening's performers.

**Yijinyuan restaurant**

Where: inside the east gate Yuan Dadu City Wall Relics Park, Beitucheng Dong Lu, Chaoyang

Open: 10 am – 9 pm

Tel: 8465 0088, 8465 2288

## Genuine taste from Niu Jie

By Jin Zhu

Turpan Restaurant on Niu Jie Muslim Street is easy to spot with its traditional Uygur exterior. Inside the restaurant, diners are whisked westward by the distinctly Uyghur music and clothing.

Xinjiang cuisine is more influenced by China's Central Asian neighbors than any other food in China. Foods of the region are dominated by Turkic spices and selected according to Islamic prohibitions. Many dishes make heavy use of chili peppers, giving a similar spice to that found in Sichuan and Hunan cuisine.

In Turpan Restaurant, roast meat and grilled mutton kebabs are popular orders. Roast meat is the specialty of Xinjiang. Generally speaking, a two-year-old sheep is selected by an experienced chef. The sheep is slaughtered and skinned, and then dabbled with salt inside and out. Finally, it is coated with a mixture of egg, chopped ginger, scallions and pepper. Usually, it takes an hour for the sheep to roast to a deep golden brown.

For a cost-saving meal, try a mutton kebab. The kebabs served at Turpan are extremely big and fresh.

The restaurant is popular with Xinjiang food lovers. The Niu Jie Muslim Street, where it is located, is home to people from 20 minority groups. The restaurant has attracted many diners with its authentic Uyghur fare since 1987.

**Turpan Restaurant**

Where: 6 Niu Jie, Xuanwu

Open: 11 am – 9 pm

Tel: 8316 4691



The doorface of Turpan Restaurant



Roasted mutton kebabs

Photos by Jin Zhu



# Tracing the memories of Hong Kong

19

Travel China

Upper Lascar Row  
摩羅上街 46-2

By Zheng Lu

Despite Hong Kong's presence as an international city, people tend to ignore its natural beauty and unique cultural characteristics. However, Hongkongers have begun to realize the charm and value of old Hong Kong. They attach great importance to old traditions, which have been dubbed the "Hongkongers' collective memories." Follow their steps down memory lane to find more to explore than ever imagined.

## Sites with stories

### Trace old life in the lanes

At the foot of Peak Mountain is Hollywood Road, named for the holly woods that once lined the street. In fact, it was named before the US Hollywood. The street is a must-see for any curio fan, and the goods in the area are thick with history.

More than a century ago, before the island began reclaiming land from the ocean, the area was very near to the coastline. Foreign merchants and sailors brought Chinese antiques to Hollywood to sell them before their return to Europe.

A hundred years later, antique stores line both sides of the road. The decoration styles of the shops differ a lot, from Chinese to Western.

Upper Lascar Road, better known as "Cat Street" since the airing of *The World of Suzie Wong* in 1960, is a narrow sidewalk between Hollywood and Queen's Road. It is the Hong Kong equivalent of Beijing's Panjiayuan Market.

"Cat Street" dates back to the old days. When Hong Kong residents found things stolen from their homes, the good usually turned up here. Cantonese people refer to thieves as rats, so customers who came to look for goods taken by rats were called cats.

The bazaar-type street has preserved the historical Hong Kong with its oriental mystery. You can find things from the New Stone Age to the Liberation if you have plenty of time and patience. Many old-timey appliances such as fans, gramophones, spring and gear watches and sewing machines fit for museum



display are found here. Both locals and foreigners come to cat street to seek their fortune. Bill Clinton found an old telephone and binoculars there several years ago.

It is also a good place for collectors to get little gadgets like snuff bottles, ancient coins and bronze mirrors.

### Man Mo temple, the island's oldest

Man Mo Temple is the oldest temple in Hong Kong, located on Hollywood Road just off Ladder Street. Construction began after Hong Kong opened its doors to the world in 1841.

The Man and the Mo are divinities enshrined there. According to legend, Man is in charge of testing and promotions while Mo represents morality and justice.

Besides ordinary worship and sacrifice, Hong Kong people used the temple as an arbitration site when they did not accept British Law. Whenever people needed to handle conflicts, they turned to Man Mo Temple and superstition.

They would take a hen with

them and chop off its head in front of the statues of Man and Mo, then burn yellow paper. The quick settlement of things was attributed to the fear of the gods. People did not dare lie to deities, so the one who was wrong would usually relent.

Though it has been restored many times, the temple keeps its vintage appearance and welcomes many pilgrims every day. The aromatic pagodas hung on the ceiling in a loop shape represent the wish of health, happiness and wealth.

### Memories fully loaded in the public housing

It is not a place for shopping, but it still worth visiting to better understand the island. Public housing played an important role for most sev-

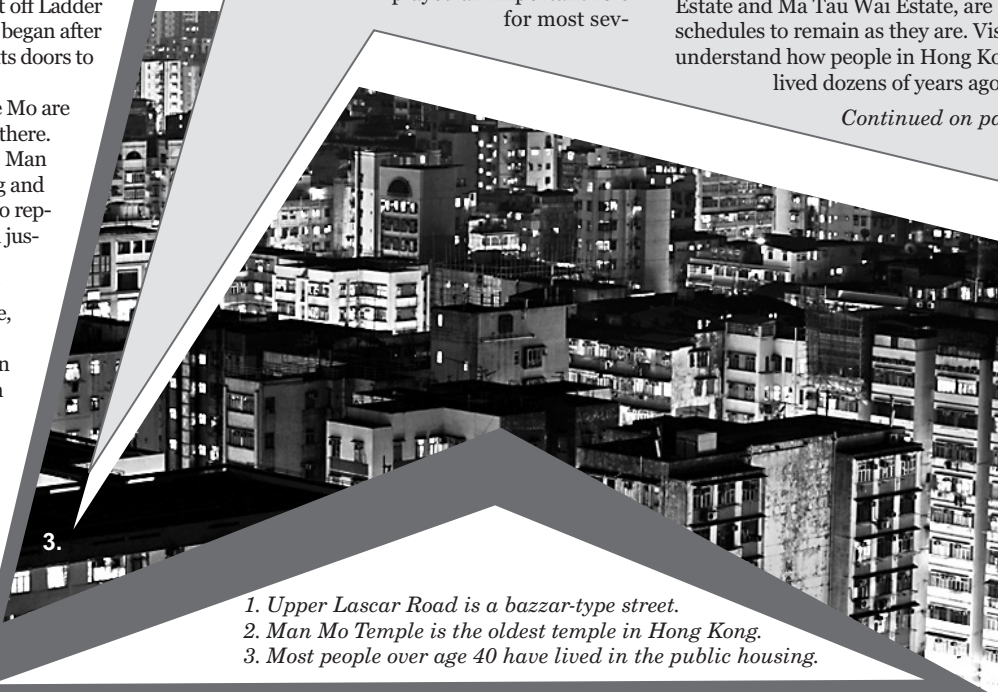
eral decades ago.

The projects date back to 1953 when a big fire destroyed the homes of 50,000 people. The government built low-cost flats for the poor families. Later, more public housing sites were built and leased to citizens at a reduced rate.

Most people who are over age 40 lived in the public housing at one point, including many movie stars and directors. Xu Guanwen, a comic, said his family lived in a wooden shed before they moved into public housing. About a third of all Hongkongers were approved to live in public housing when construction began, including the Xu family. Although the flats were simple and small – void of toilets and bathrooms – "I felt it was like heaven for us," Xu said. Those memories later became a source of inspiration in his performances.

The government has since torn down many public housing estates. Still, estates in Kowloon, such as Tsz Lok Estate and Ma Tau Wai Estate, are scheduled to remain as they are. Visit to understand how people in Hong Kong lived dozens of years ago.

Continued on page 20 ...



1. Upper Lascar Road is a bazaar-type street.
2. Man Mo Temple is the oldest temple in Hong Kong.
3. Most people over age 40 have lived in the public housing.



... continued from page 19

# Timeless transportation



The "Star" Ferry carries visitors away to Port Victoria.

## Ride through the space-time by tram

"Ding-Ding," as it is commonly called, was the tram used to get around ancient Hong Kong. The mobile antique continues to operate a century later and remains popular with people, though urban construction has altered its appearance.

The tram began to service the northern part of the island in 1904. As the number of passengers grew, double-decker trams were introduced. It now sports the largest fleet of double-decker trams in the world with 163 cars transporting 240,000 passengers daily.

Having witnessed how Hong Kong grew from a small village to an international metropolis, the tram has gone unchanged and remains the most economic transport. Each passenger pays HK \$2 for an 80-minute trip.

Like the carriages in London and man-powered tricycles in Beijing, the tram occupies a historic position in Hong Kong. Residents praise it for its price and eco-friendliness.

At night, the view of Central Plaza from the tram is beautiful. As the tram goes "ding-ding," it's hard not to imagine how the island was long ago.

Over the last hundred years, trams in many cities have experienced decline. Yet the trams in Hong Kong remain even as modern buildings crawl skyward. That is also the charm of Hong Kong. The island with the most Rolls-Royce cars still keeps its oldest public vehicles.

## Floating in nostalgia

To the visitors who do not know its history, the "Star" Ferry is just a ship that carries them away to Port Victoria. To locals, it is living history and something to remind them of the demolished piers.

The ferry has operated since 1898. For a hundred years, it came and went between Hong Kong Island and Kowloon. All 12 ferries of the Star Ferry Company have a "star" in their names, such as North Star and Solar Star. They remain the cheapest way to cross the sea. The route from Central to Tsim Sha Tsui costs HK \$1.7 and takes three minutes to cross the bank.

There are four piers along the Port Victoria, two in the south and two in the north. Both piers and ferries are valuable "historical relics." The white-and-green hull, the wooden cabin and the roaring of the machines all hearken back to the past.

And that is what the natives cherish. Two years ago, the people mobilized when the Edinburgh Place Pier was scheduled for demolition. The announcement touched off a series of demonstrations and sit-in protests by the citizens. Although it led the Legislative Council to hold a discussion, the pier was demolished in the end. Chief Executive Zeng Yinquan's popularity began a sharp spiral downward, and the islanders have been seeking their identity ever since.

Sitting in the old-fashioned wooden chairs, the skyscrapers on both banks are reminiscent of what was lost. To some extent, the "Star" has become a brand of history rather than a brand of ferry.



The Star Ferry Company's ferries has "star" in their names.

Continued on page 21 ...



The trams in Hong Kong remain even as modern buildings crawl skyward.

CFP Photo



... continued from page 20

21

Travel China

## Flavors of the past



### Grass-roots spirit at the Tea House

The essence of Hong Kong culture is buried deep below its appearance. The tea house is only one example.

In a 2004 vote to determine the "The ten most representative designs of Hong Kong," the tea house took first place. As a native invention made in Hong Kong a half century ago, it embodies the island's grass-roots spirit. It represents Hong-kongers' value of life and caters to the people's need for diverse, cheap and efficient products.

Tea houses are everywhere in Hong Kong, all small and stocked with plenty of foods. Both Chinese and Western food are served, including a few local curiosities like pineapple buns and Mandarin duck Milk Tea, both of which also made the top 10 list.

Crowded as the houses are, the emphasis remains on speed. Tips are optional and diners come up to pay the bill on their own after eating. Many strangers share the same table - a curious scene in a city many refer to as inhospitable. It is interesting to find people from different backgrounds and industries dine together while chatting or reading the news.

A meal costs HK \$20, half or even a third of the cost seen in other places. The food sold generally includes free hot tea or water.

Most tea houses do business 20 hours a day and are a convenient stop for people who get off duty at odd hours or who like to stay up. Its features explain why, in a commercial city where people think only of getting rich, the simple and unadorned tea houses are still the local favorite.

Many senior officials, including Antony Leung, the former Financial Secretary, have shown their love of tea houses publicly. That pop stars also dine at the tea houses makes them a permanent home of the island's paparazzi.

Eating is a good way to experience local culture. The tea house offers not only the particular foods of Hong Kong, but also an angle to observe it and the natives' daily life.

### Poon chai, a feast for the family

Poon chai, also called the "giant basin feast," is a traditional dish with centuries of history in the New Territories. It is made by cooking dozens of ingredients separately and then laid them one by one into the basin. The villages in the New Territories hold a poon chai feast on happy occasions or festivals such as the building of a new house, the celebration of an ancestral temple or the New Year.

The origin of the "giant basin feast" is shrouded in legend. It is said at the end of the Song Dynasty, when the emperor tried to get rid of the Jin Dynasty soldiers who intended to kidnap him, he fled to a village in the New Territories of Hong Kong. As the attendants searched for the foods, the villagers heard news that the emperor had arrived. To show their respect, the villagers devoted the foods stored in each one's house. However, without enough bowls to take the food, they used a big basin. Since then, the dish has been a countryside tradition.

Besides minimizing clean up time, the round basin is a symbol of reunion and wealth. Poon chai offers the clan or village the chance to get together and enjoy peaceful relations.

The recipe of poon chai is held by one family or collectively by a village. Many materials such as pork, chicken, duck, fish, shrimp and mushrooms can be used as main ingredients. The poon chai is made in a clay or metal basin with a flame under it to keep it warm when served.

In recent years, poon chai has become a very popular holiday treat and is available in various Hong Kong restaurants. These more modern poon chai are designed to suit certain tastes, such as seafood, vegetarian, spicy or curry poon chai, which blends features of Indian cuisine.

The price of the poon chai varies, but is generally at least several hundred HK dollars, not a bad deal when it feeds a dozen. Smaller basins for three to four persons are cheaper and cost less. To eat poon available and like a native, you need to remember to invert the ingredients again and again when eating. The vegetables and meat on the bottom absorb the taste of the upper layers. No natives eat poon chai layer by layer.



Poon chai, also called the "giant basin feast," is a traditional dish with centuries of history in the New Territories.

CFP Photos



Editor: He Jianwei Designer: Zhao Yan

BEIJING TODAY



# The name card – never leave home without it



ClarkMorgan  
Corporate Training

By Ellen Orlando

A name card may seem like just a little piece of paper, but it bears great significance. A name card is often the first point of reference when making a new contact. It not only contains contact information, but also the company's face with its logo and design.

When networking, the name card is a most trusted tool. It allows one to smoothly make contact with a large number of people at one time and turn those contacts into valuable relationships. This is well known by many successful business professionals in China and around the world. Why is it then that many often forget this vital piece of information? Having a constant supply of business cards in one's wallet, purse, bag or front pocket can save valuable time. Below are some very important reasons why this little piece of paper

can make a big difference.

**Professionalism:** Presenting a professional and polished image goes all the way down to the smallest of behaviors. When making a new contact at a networking event, conference, restaurant or bar anywhere else, it is important to project the picture of a seasoned networker who is constantly and effectively meeting and greeting new people. Reaching for a piece of loose paper or pulling out a cell phone to take down contact information looks unprepared, unprofessional and can make the receiver feel pressured to release their information. Having a name card readily available makes the person to whom it is being given feel more at ease with exchanging information.

**Lost and found:** Taking or giving contact information from a new person can be tricky. A

piece of loose paper or a napkin can be lost and cell phone numbers can change. Often, a contact is made and then followed up because the information was lost or simply forgotten. Keeping a name card holder when traveling between meetings or countries keeps new contacts organized and in one place. This will reduce the chances of losing important contact information. It also makes contacting that person afterwards easy.

**On the go:** Any experienced networking professional knows that, at any moment, you might run into that priceless contact. This can happen everywhere from a networking conference to an airport waiting room, a hotel lobby or a sporting event. When these precious encounters happen, time is fleeting. This is where the invaluable name card comes in handy. A true expert is always ready.



Ellen Orlando is the ClarkMorgan Beijing Events Manager

## Dining

### Maison Boulud

Maison Boulud à Pékin, globally-acclaimed chef Daniel Boulud's new restaurant, is situated within Beijing's Legation Quarter. At this time of the season, the eatery offers a three-course lunch promotion at 165 yuan per person. Choose three courses from the exquisite dishes on the menu.

Where: Maison Boulud, Legation Quarter, 23 Qianmen Dajie, Chongwen

Open: Daily except Monday 11:30 am – 2:30 pm, 6-11:30 pm

Tel: 6559 9200

### Lobster feast

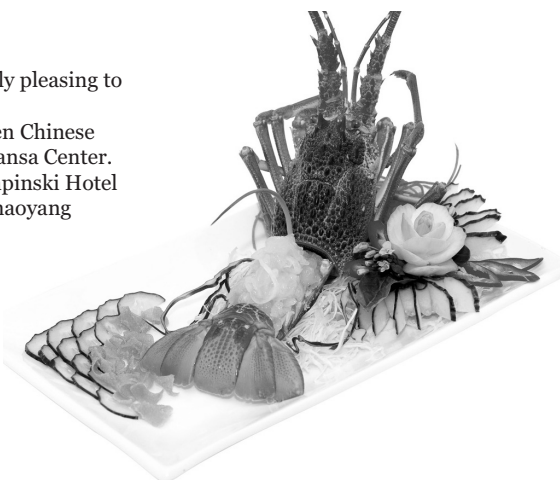
Lobster is a favorite seafood meal. It is not only pleasing to the palate but also good for the health.

This September, feast on lobster at Loong Yuen Chinese Restaurant in the Kempinski Hotel Beijing Lufthansa Center.

Where: Loong Yuen Chinese Restaurant, Kempinski Hotel Beijing Lufthansa Center, 50 Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang

Open: 11:30 am – 2 pm, 5:30-10 pm

Tel: 6465 3388 ext 4108



### Savor Seafood for Weekend

On weekends, you can savor a variety of seafood at a special price of 128 yuan per person. This seafood buffet dinner is subject to buy three, get one free plus 20 yuan and includes free-flowing beverages and beer. The promotion is available every Friday and Saturday from 6 pm – 10 pm.

Where: Novotel Beijing West Zhongguancun, 36 Haidian Nan Lu, Haidian

Tel: 8266 9999 ext 5905 or 5609



## Aviation

### Enjoy an exceptional special fare of Lufthansa

Lufthansa has introduced a special online promotion for the upcoming winter season with a round-trip economy-class fare from mainland China to Europe starting at 3,880 yuan, excluding tax and fuel surcharges.

This winter season promotion is effective for booking from September 9 to October 15 and is only applicable on flights operated by Lufthansa. Travel time is valid from November 1 to February 28.

For promotions on Shanghai, Guangzhou, Nanjing, Shenyang and Hong Kong, please visit [www.lufthansa.com](http://www.lufthansa.com) or check with your travel agent or the Lufthansa Call Centre at 400 886 8868.

### SriLankan Airlines Wins Best Cabin Crew Award

The results of the Golden Wing Awards were revealed. SriLankan Airlines has won the Best Cabin Crew Award for its outstanding in-flight services and unique characteristics at the Golden Wing Awards 2008.

This is the second year for the awards, co-founded by the Oriental Morning Post, the globally-authoritative magazine Travel and Leisure (Chinese edition) and participation by domestic mainstream press.

The Golden Wing Awards began in 2006. The awards are determined by a professional panel as well as online votes gathered from Chinese netizens.

(By Li Jing)

If you have any info for this page, please send it to [lixiaojing@ynet.com](mailto:lixiaojing@ynet.com)



# New look for the old embassy area

By Annie Wei

The Ritan area is an embassy zone with buildings for dozens of different countries. Silk Street (Xiushuijie) market is at its south end, and many foreigners visit to do their gift shopping.

Buildings in Ritan Park date back to the sixteenth century. Today it is a beautiful and admission-free park. It is amazing to find a peaceful, green area in the center

of Beijing that has not been gobbled up and torn apart by real estate developers.

You need to spend a lot of time looking for quality items in Xiushuijie, but it is possible to unearth a treasure every now and then. The ongoing tourism boom has transformed many markets into shopping malls. International brands turn up at cheap prices. The vendors claim they sneak the products out of the factories directly. Authenticity matters less than being satisfied with the quality and price.



In Peace Art, paintings cover the walls and the ancient wood furniture add the cultural atmosphere.

## See, touch, taste and hear culture

By Jackie Zhang

Peace Art is beside the south gate of Ritan Park. In the 1950s, its location was occupied by Heping Gallery, where authors like Guo Moruo and painters like Xu Beihong and Qi Baishi used to gather to talk and drink tea. Chinese art is core Peace Art. It penetrates everything down to the decorations and furniture to create an almost tangible atmosphere.

Xu Huachi, the owner of Peace Art, was born to a family thick in culture. He was interested in painting and wood furniture as a child.

It is not just a restaurant or a gallery. In Peace Art, you can find paintings, furniture, food and tea. The bottom floor of Peace Art showcases paintings and furniture. All furniture is made of valuable wood, like yellow rosewood and common rosewood.

Peace Art used to trade in famous pieces, and tea was just something on the side. But as guests lingered longer and longer, the shop owners decided to offer more teas and snacks. Today, both Chinese and Japanese foods are available.



You can know what peace is in this tranquil Chinese chamber.

**Peace Art Co.**

Where: 17 Guanghua Lu  
Open: 9:30 am – midnight  
Tel: 8562 2680

## The park's little Moscow

By Jackie Zhang

To many old Beijingers, Laomo, the Moscow Restaurant opened in 1954, is the most authentic and reputable place for Russian dining. But the influx of Russians doing business in Yabao Lu has led to the opening of an even better option on Guanghua Lu, beside Ritan Park.

The restaurant floor is made of dark wood. It includes a hall for evening song and dance performances. The televisions play Russian pro-

grams, competing for sound space against Russian music.

Rye bread is an authentic Russian bread. Unlike white bread, rye bread is not eaten with butter, but with sour cream. Most guests have raved about the potato salad. The dressings are made by the chef from egg yolk. The chefs churn the yolk with ripe salad oil until it becomes dense, and then add salt, pepper, gourmet powder and vinegar. The Siberian Steak is made of two thin

slices of beef fried with a mashed potato cover.

Live performances begin at 7 pm. All performers are Russian. Although some have criticized the performers as unprofessional, they still complement the Russian atmosphere.

**Moscow**

Where: Southwest corner of Ritan Park, Guanghua Lu  
Open: 11 am – 3 am next day  
Tel: 6586 3217  
Cost: 100 per person

## Grandma's Kitchen, the most popular brunch

By Annie Wei

Back in 2004, some of my friends became addicted to the brunch at Grandma's Kitchen or steak and eggs at Xiushui Nan Jie.

"Brunch is very popular in the US," one of them said. It is certainly popular in Beijing's expat community, and that popularity spills over to the younger generation.

Although Grandma's Kitchen has opened more chains in locales like Jianwai SOHO and Central Beijing, the one in Xiushui Nan Jie was the first to find fame.

Like the name implies, Grandma's Kitchen offers a warm, cozy atmosphere. It has checkered tablecloths and friendly English and Chinese-speaking wait staff. The Kitchen serves typical American foods, such as pancakes, steak sandwiches, hamburgers, french fries, cheesecakes, bottom-

less cups of black coffee and many flavors of milk shakes.

Most items are high in calories and served in generous portions. American food is not about taste, but quantity: Grandma's Kitchen takes that point to heart.

Its outdoor seating is popular in summer. Many customers sit outside to enjoy a breeze through the willows.

The roast potato and milk shakes are recommended – both are hard to track down in Beijing. Grandma's Kitchen has some of the capital's best cheesecake and sells it at a reasonable price.

**Grandma's Kitchen**

Where: 11 Xiushui Nan Jie

Open: 7:30 am – 11:30 pm

Tel: 6503 2893

Cost: above 50 yuan per person, accepts International and local credit cards

## Calm in the center of Beijing



The mural painting depicts a sacrifice ceremony for the Sun.

CFP Photo

By Jackie Zhang

The present day Ritan Park includes the altar where Ming (1368-1644) and Qing (1644-1912) emperors sacrificed to the sun. The park was constructed in the 1950s and is located in the Ritan Embassy zone.

The actual "Ritan," the square used in sacrificial ceremony, is surrounded by a circular red wall and faces west. The platform is in the Shengchun-

yuan in the southeast corner of the park. In Ming, the platform was covered in red glaze to represent the sun. In Qing Dynasty, the platform was refitted with square bricks and was surrounded by walls.

Before 1949, most of Ritan and the surrounding ancient buildings were falling into ruin. In 1951, the government renovated Ritan and included it in the new park. The south and north gate of the park and the mural painting that depicts a sacrificial ceremony were constructed then.

Today, the park is open free to all. Old people and children who live nearby come every day to play and exercise. Although the park is in the central area of the city, it remains a quiet and comfortable place to relax.

**Ritan Park**

Where: 6 Ritan Bei Lu

Open: 6 am – 9 pm

Tel: 6502 1743



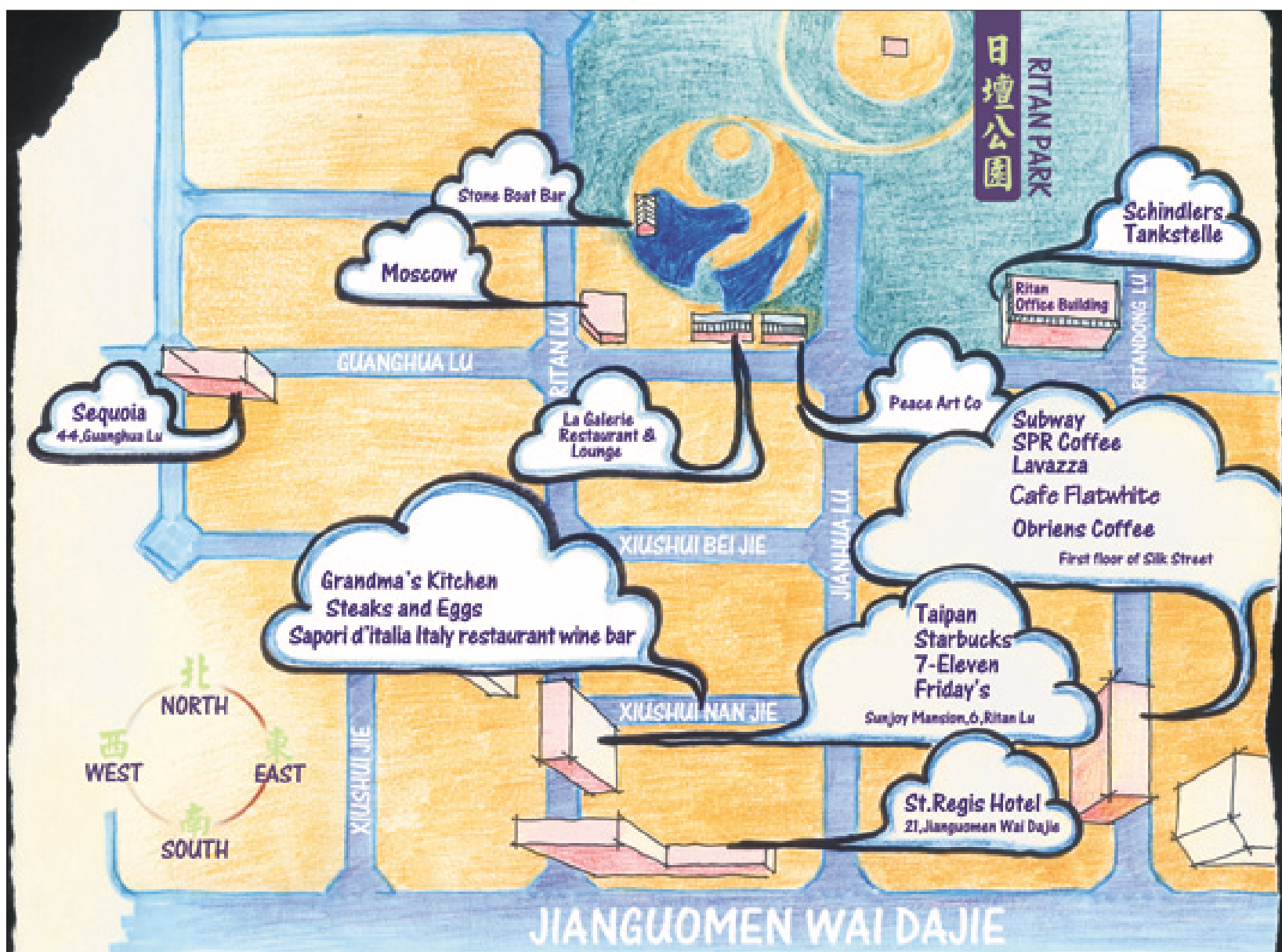
The wall for climbing in the park is another reason that people like here.

Continued on page 24 ...



... continued from page 23

24



## Xiushui Nan Jie

### Satori d'Italia Italy restaurant wine bar

It has a smaller entrance than other restaurants on the street, but it is one of the most popular for Italian visitors.  
Where: 17 Xiushui Nan Jie  
Open: 10 am – midnight  
Tel: 6593 2079

### Cafe Oriental Taipan

The bakery items on the first floor are half off after 8 pm. Congee served after 11 pm is made in traditional style and priced reasonably.  
Where: Second floor of Sunjoy Mansion, 6 Ritan Lu, Chaoyang  
Open: 11 am – 2 am next day

Tel: 6585 3478

### Starbucks

Open: 7 am – 10 pm  
Tel: 6595 4675

### 7-Eleven

Where: First floor of Sunjoy Mansion, 6 Ritan Lu, Chaoyang  
Open: 24 hours

### Friday's

Where: First floor of Sunjoy Mansion, 6 Ritan Lu  
Open: 11:30 am – midnight  
Tel: 8526 3388

### Steaks and Eggs

A great spot for expats who want Western food on the weekend. The

wait staff is known for being colorful characters.

Where: 5 Xiushui Nan Jie, Chaoyang  
Open: 7:30 am – 10:30 pm, weekends  
7:30 am – midnight  
Tel: 5820 2670

### St. Regis Hotel

Situated in the heart of the business, shopping and diplomatic districts, it is the hotel of choice for the world's most discerning traveler.  
Where: 21 Janguomen Wai Dajie  
Open: 24 hours  
Tel: 6460 6688

### Grandma's Kitchen

Where: 11 Xiushui Nan Jie, Chaoyang  
Open: 7:30 am – 11:30 pm  
Tel: 6503 2893

## Guanghua Lu

### La Galerie Restaurant & Lounge

It is in a traditional courtyard, with lovely paths and tall, old trees. It is a wonderful place for a pot of tea and Cantonese snacks.  
Where: West of south gate of Ritan Park, Guanghua Lu  
Open: 10 am – 3 pm, 5 – 10:30 pm  
Cost: 200 yuan per person  
Tel: 8562 8698

### Schindlers Tankstelle

The restaurant is like an underground cellar complete with dim lighting. Diners chat cheerfully while they

enjoy home-style German foods, like sausage and Erdinger.  
Where: West 888, Ritan Office Building, 15 Guanghua Lu, Chaoyang  
Open: 11 am – 1 am next day  
Tel: 8562 6439

### Peace Art Co

Where: 17 Guanghua Lu  
Open: 9:30 am – midnight  
Tel: 8562 2680

### Stone Boat Bar

The bar is inside a faux Qing Dynasty boat in Ritan Park. But, during summer, the activities move outside.  
Where: Southwest corner of Ritan

Park, Southeast end of the lake  
Open: 10 am – 11 pm  
Tel: 6501 9986

### Sequoia

It serves nice muffins, sandwiches and good coffee. Sequoia also holds wine tasting events.  
Where: 44 Guanghua Lu, Chaoyang  
Open: 8 am – 8 pm  
Tel: 6501 5503

### Moscow

Where: southwest corner of Ritan Park  
Open: 11 am – 3 am next day  
Cost, 100 yuan per person  
Tel: 6586 3217



## Silk Street

### Subway

Where: First floor of Silk Street  
Open: 7:30 am – 10 pm  
Tel: 5169 8896

### SPR Coffee

Where: First floor of Silk Street  
Open: 8:30 am – 11 pm  
Tel: 5169 8411

### Lavazza

Where: First floor of Silk Street  
Open: 9 am – 10:30 pm  
Tel: 5169 8870

### Obriens Coffee

Where: First floor of Silk Street  
Open: 8:30 am – 10:30 pm  
Tel: 5169 9298

### Cafe Flatwhite

Where: First floor of Silk Street  
Open: 9 am – 11 pm  
Tel: 5169 9156

(By Jackie Zhang)